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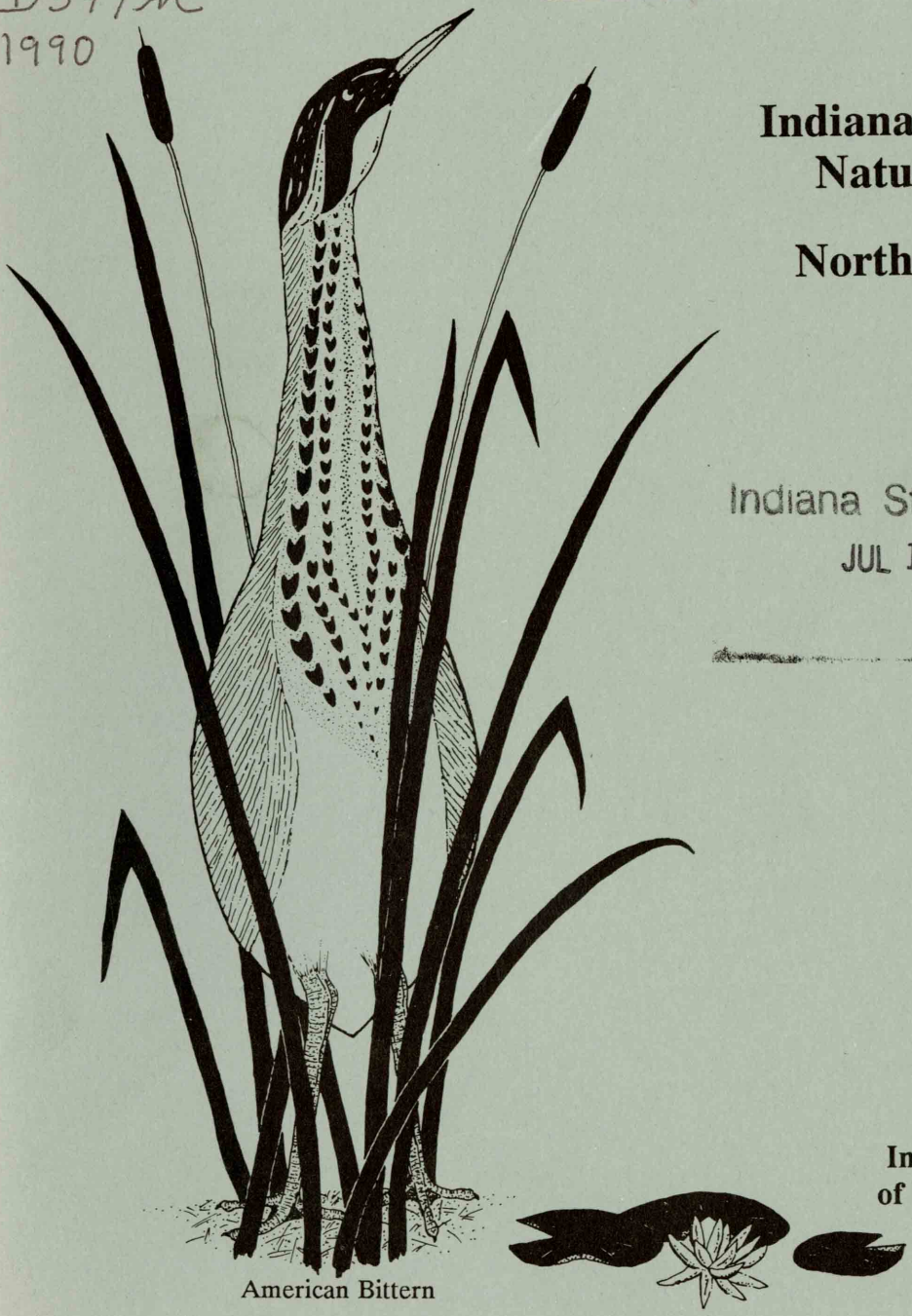
Directory of Indiana's Dedicated Nature Preserves for Northeast Indiana



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Directory of Indiana's Dedicated Nature Preserves

for

Northeast Indiana

Division of Nature Preserves
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

1990

Dedication

We dedicate this directory of Northeast Indiana Nature Preserves to the Muncie Family YMCA. Through their gracious donation, the production of this publication was possible.

Indiana's Nature Preserve System

In 1967, the Indiana General Assembly passed the Nature Preserves Act, establishing the Division of Nature Preserves within the Department of Natural Resources. In order to ensure that examples of our important natural heritage are preserved for future generations, the Division was given the responsibility for the acquisition, dedication, management and protection of significant natural areas throughout the state.

Nature Preserves are legally protected areas, ranging in size from one acre to over a thousand acres. They are available for a variety of activities, including nature study, bird-watching, hiking and nature photography, or by advance permission, for research and education. When visiting, please stay on the trails, where available. The trails are not only for your convenience, but also for the protection of the plant and animal life in the preserves.

It is unlawful to disturb or remove anything from a preserve. Hunting and trapping are not allowed on most preserves. Fires, camping, picnicking, rock climbing, littering and vehicles are all prohibited. Additional regulations may be posted at individual preserves. If you notice violations of these regulations or other management problems, or have other comments and suggestions, please contact us at:

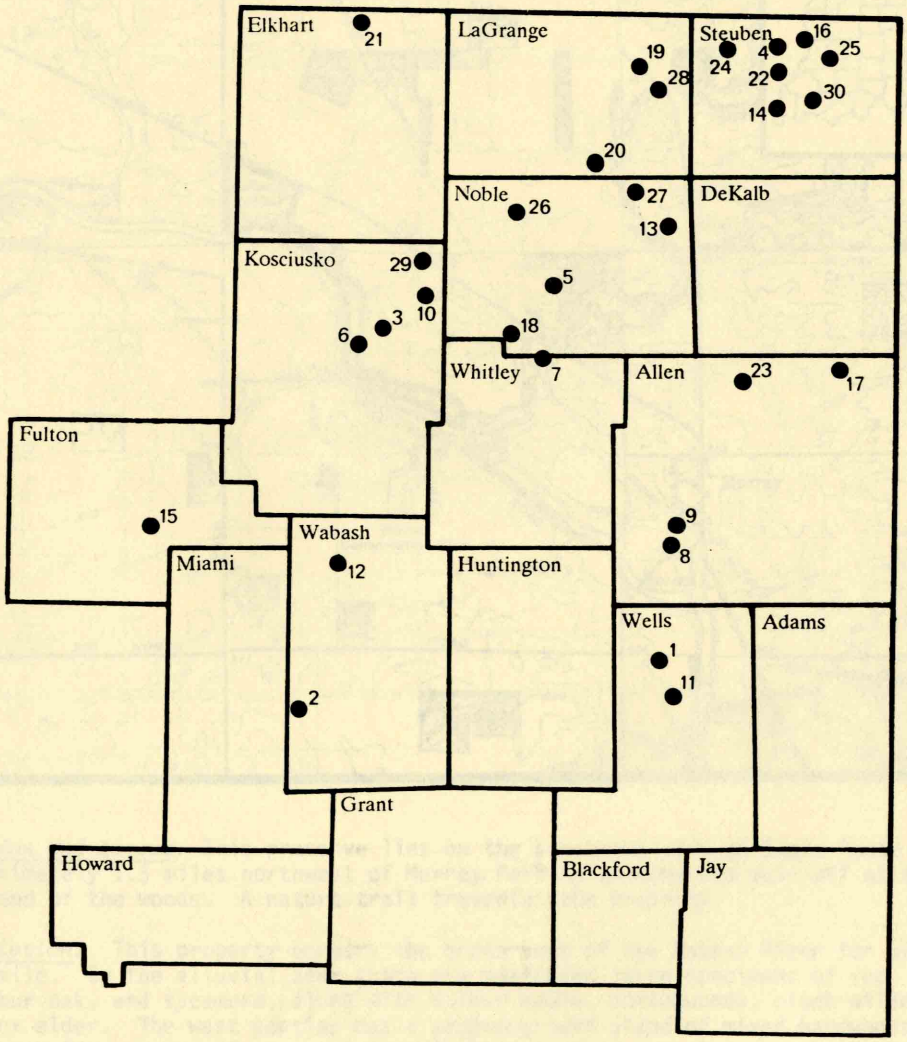
Division of Nature Preserves
605B State Office Building
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-4052

Remember, these preserves are yours to enjoy. Protect them, enjoy them, and use them, but don't abuse them. Consider the feelings of others -- be thoughtful and courteous. Keep your Nature Preserves clean and beautiful.

List of Dedicated Nature Preserves in Northeast Indiana

Map #	Name of Preserve	County	Size (Ac)
1	Acres along the Wabash	Wells	27
2	Asherwood	Wabash	60
3	Ball Wetlands	Kosciusko	221
4	Beechwood	Steuben	74
5	Bender (Lloyd W.)	Noble	60
6	Big Chapman Lake	Kosciusko	147
7	Crooked Lake	Whitley	100
8	Fogwell Forest	Allen	28
9	Fox Island	Allen	270
10	Grider's Woods	Kosciusko	10
11	Hammer (Anna Brand)	Wells	20
12	Laketon Bog	Wabash	32
13	Lonidaw	Noble	25
14	Loon Lake	Steuben	99
15	Manitou Islands	Fulton	107
16	Marsh Lake	Steuben	103
17	McNabb-Walter	Allen	41.4
18	Merry Lea	Noble	250
19	Mongoquinong	LaGrange	65
20	Olin Lake	LaGrange	269
21	Pipewort Pond (William L. Lieber)	Elkhart	135
22	Potawatomi	Steuben	208
23	Rodenbeck (Albert D.)	Allen	49
24	Ropchan Memorial	Steuben	77
25	Ropchan Wildlife Refuge	Steuben	157
26	Spurgeon (Edna W.)	Noble	65
27	Swamp Angel	Noble	83
28	Tamarack Bog	LaGrange	170
29	Wawasee Wetlands	Kosciusko	17
30	Woodland Bog	Steuben	20

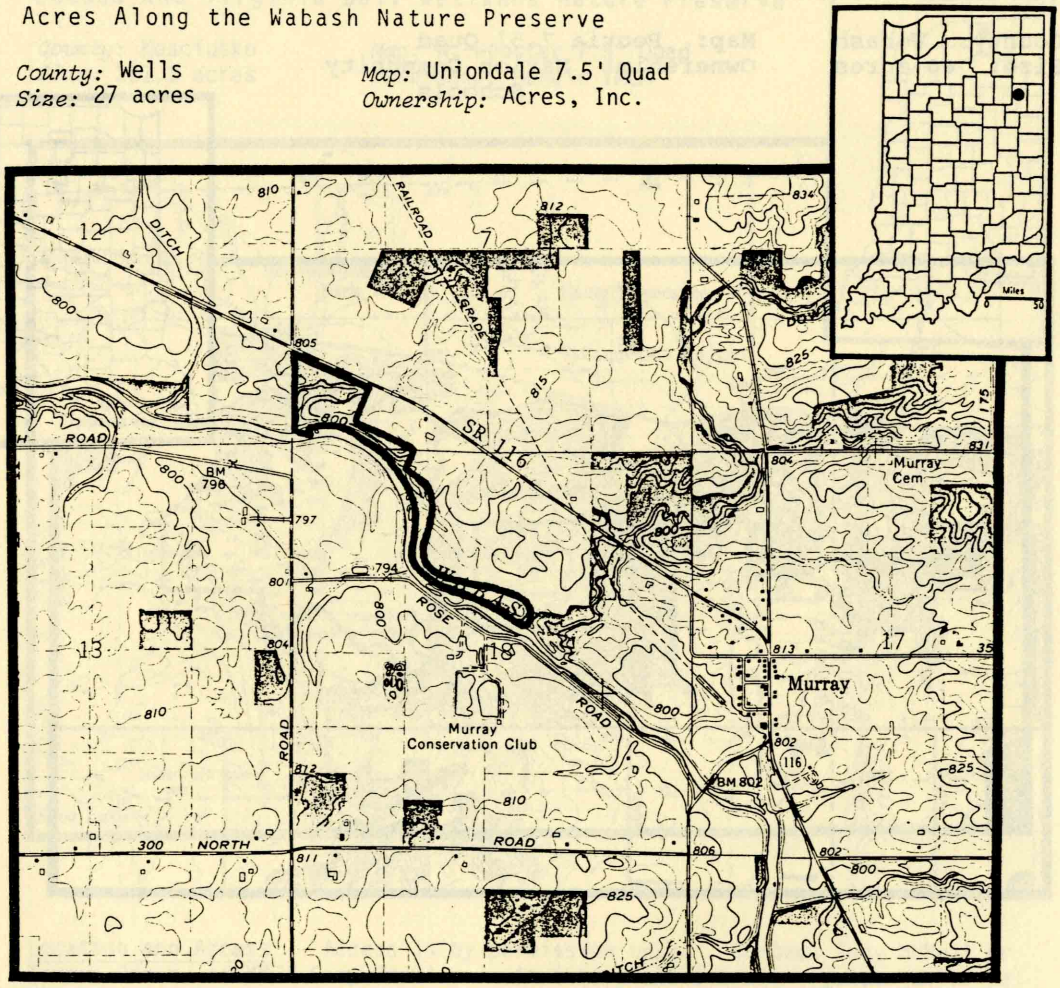
Map of Northeast Indiana's Dedicated Nature Preserves



Acres Along the Wabash Nature Preserve

County: Wells
Size: 27 acres

Map: Uniondale 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Acres, Inc.



Location and Access: This preserve lies on the southwest side of State Route 116, approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Murray. Park in an unmarked pull-off at the west end of the woods. A nature trail traverses the property.

Description: This property borders the north bank of the Wabash River for 3/4 of a mile. On the alluvial bank there are scattered large specimens of red oak, bur oak, and sycamore, along with silver maple, cottonwoods, black willow, and box elder. The west portion has a second-growth stand of mixed hardwoods, with high frequencies of sugar maple, black maple, and red elm.

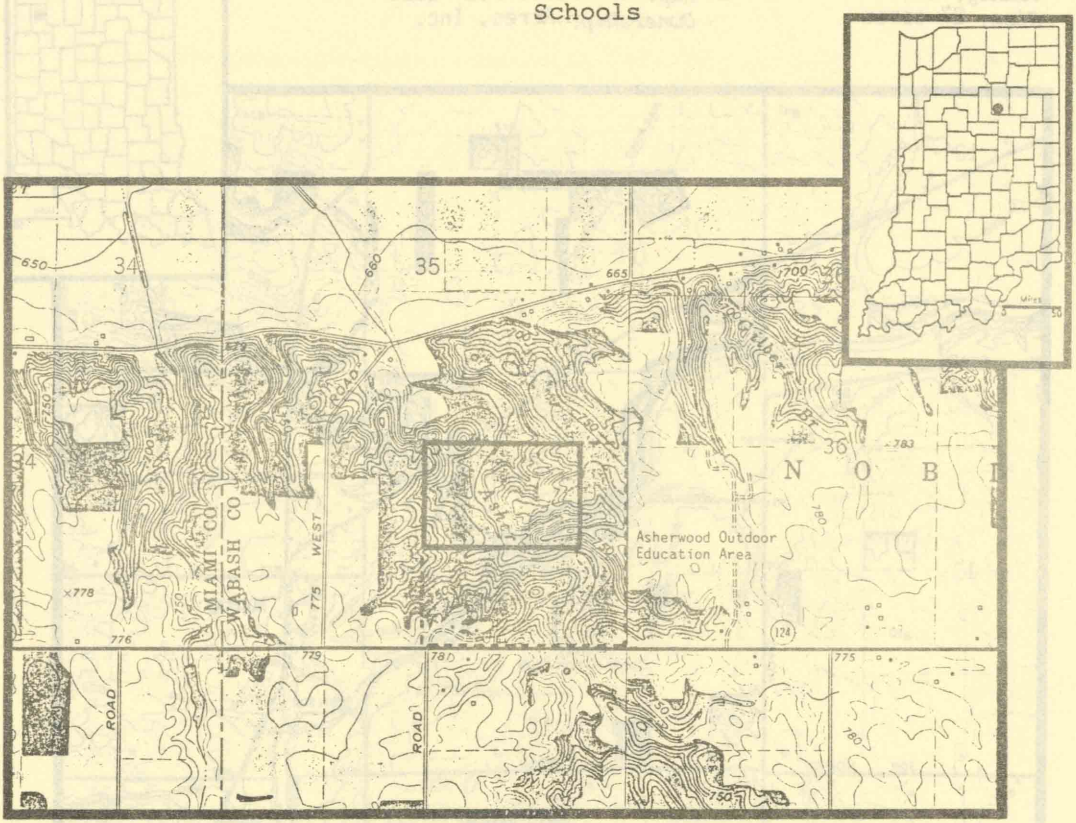
Fox squirrels, chipmunks, and woodchucks are common residents of the woodland. The tracks of raccoon and muskrat are indented in the soft mud along the river. Wood-ducks often flush from pools created by riffles in the riverbed.

Further Information: Acres, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748, 219-637-6264 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Asherwood Nature Preserve

County: Wabash
Size: 60 acres

Map: Peoria 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Marion Community Schools



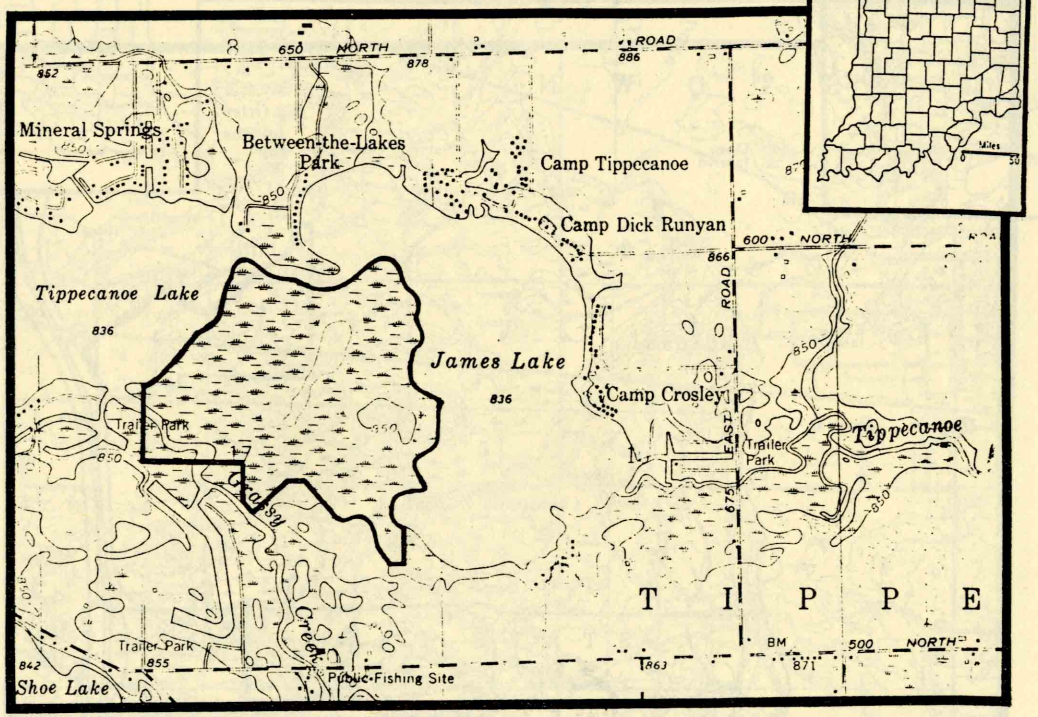
Location and Access: Access is through the Asherwood Nature Center which is on the north side of SR 124, five miles west of SR 13. Part of the Asherwood trail system passes through the preserve.

Description: This preserve straddles Asher Creek, and consists of good examples of mesic upland forest, dominated by beech and sugar maple, and dry-mesic upland forest, dominated by several species of oak and hickory. A small amount of floodplain forest is also present.

Further Information: Asherwood Environmental Learning Center, RR2 Box 214, Wabash, IN 46992, (219) 563-8148 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4052.

Edmund and Virginia Ball Wetlands Nature Preserve

County: Kosciusko
Size: 221.3 acres
Map: N. Webster 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Muncie YMCA



Location and Access: Access is by permission only. Contact Tony McNeil or Terry Jones at YMCA Camp Crosley. An interpretive trail system will be developed.

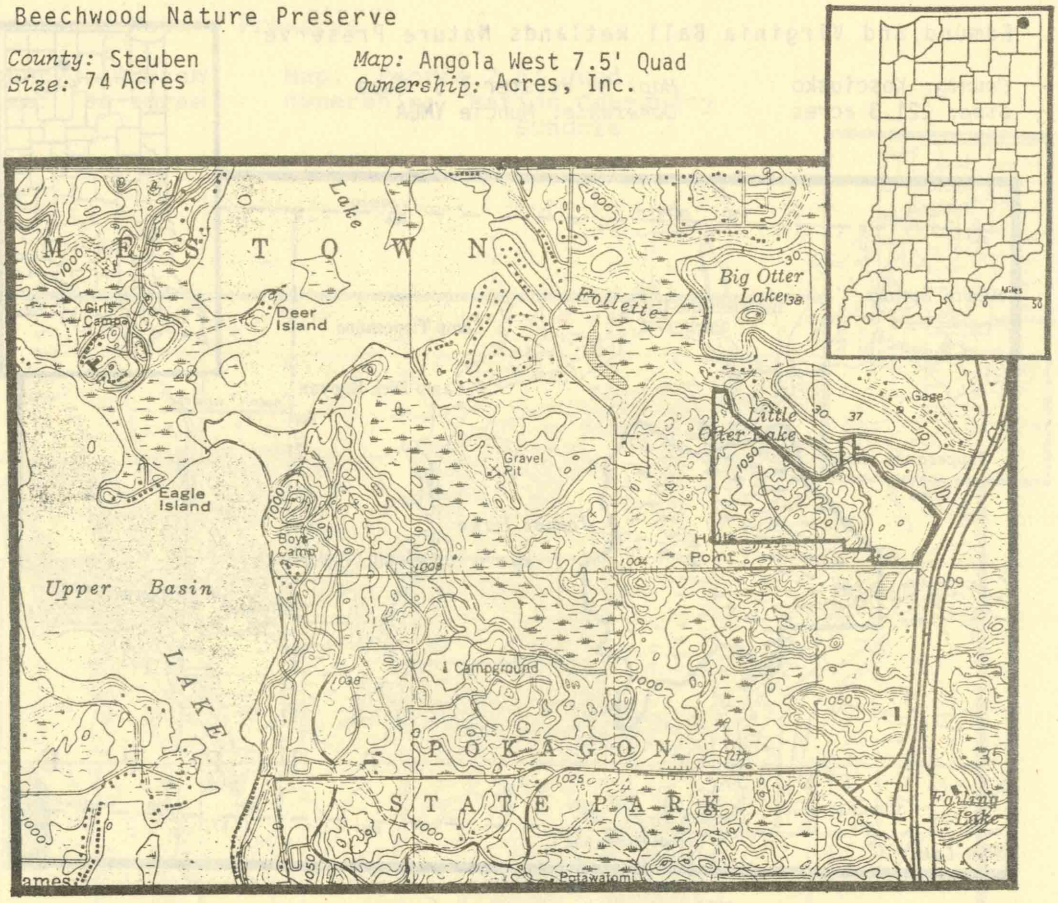
Description: This is one of the largest wetland complexes remaining in Indiana. It is located between Lake Tippecanoe and Lake James. High quality wetland communities within the preserve include: open marsh, tall shrub swamp, red maple swamp forest, and upland "islands" dominated by black oak. Several rare plants are found in the preserve. It also provides breeding, resting and feeding habitat for numerous waterfowl and other species of wildlife.

Further Information: YMCA Camp Crosley, RR 2 Box 151A, North Webster IN 46555, 219-834-2331 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Beechwood Nature Preserve

County: Steuben
Size: 74 Acres

Map: Angola West 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Acres, Inc.



Location and Access: Exit I-69 at the Pokagon State Park exit. Follow signs to the park. Just before the park entrance sign turn north on Route 127 at the "T" intersection. Go about ½ mile north to a marked pull-off on the west side of the road. Marked trails traverse the preserve.

Description: The northeastern slope has a second-growth beech-maple forest. However, the preserve is more significant as a depressional site with a variety of habitats. The depression is drained by a small stream which empties into nearby Little Otter Lake.

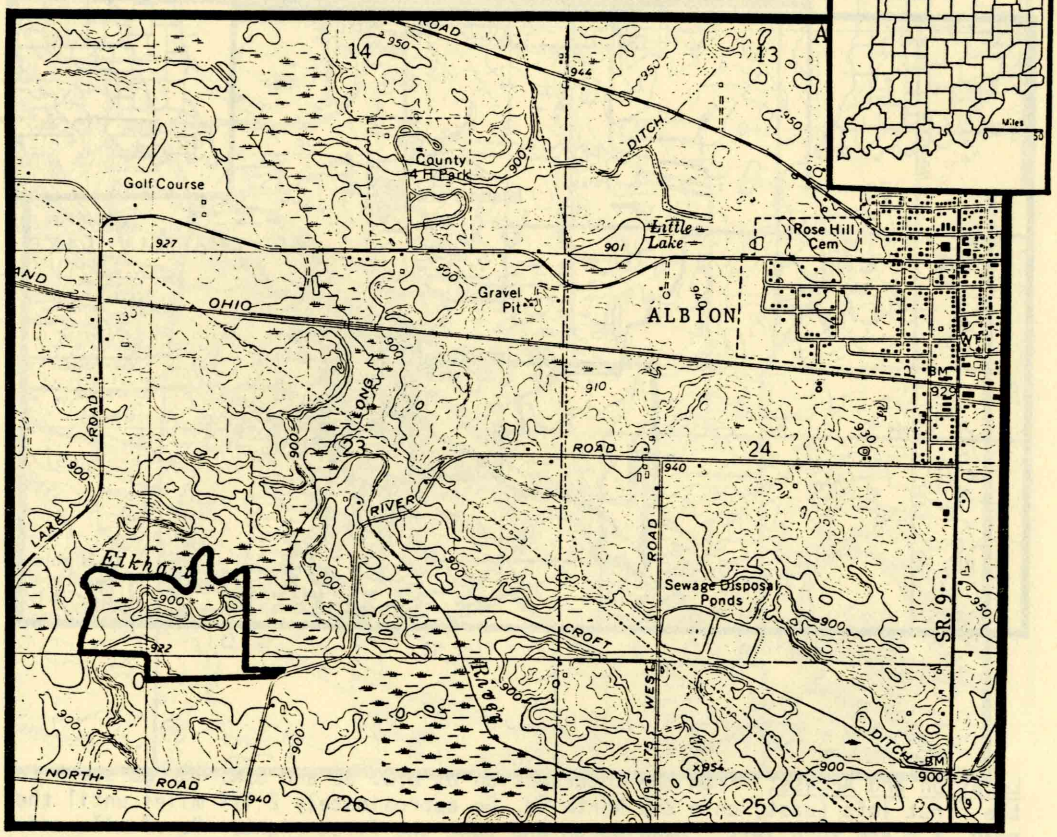
A part of the muck soil supports a stand of yellow birch, red maple, red elm, and blue beech. Dense thickets of red osier, and pale and gray dogwoods occupy more open areas, along with poison sumac, elderberry, and spicebush. One small pond has cattails and sedges and is rimmed with black willow, pussy willow, and dogwoods. Some land in the western portion of the preserve is reverting from old field into forest.

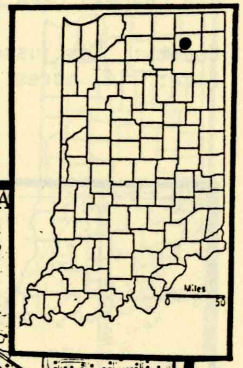
Further Information: Acres, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748, 219-637-6264 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Lloyd W. Bender Nature Preserve

County: Noble
Size: 60 acres

Map: Albion 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Acres, Inc.





Location and Access: This tract is 2 miles southwest of Albion. Exit State Route 9 at the southern boundary of Albion. Go west on River Road to the marked parking lot, and follow trail to woods.

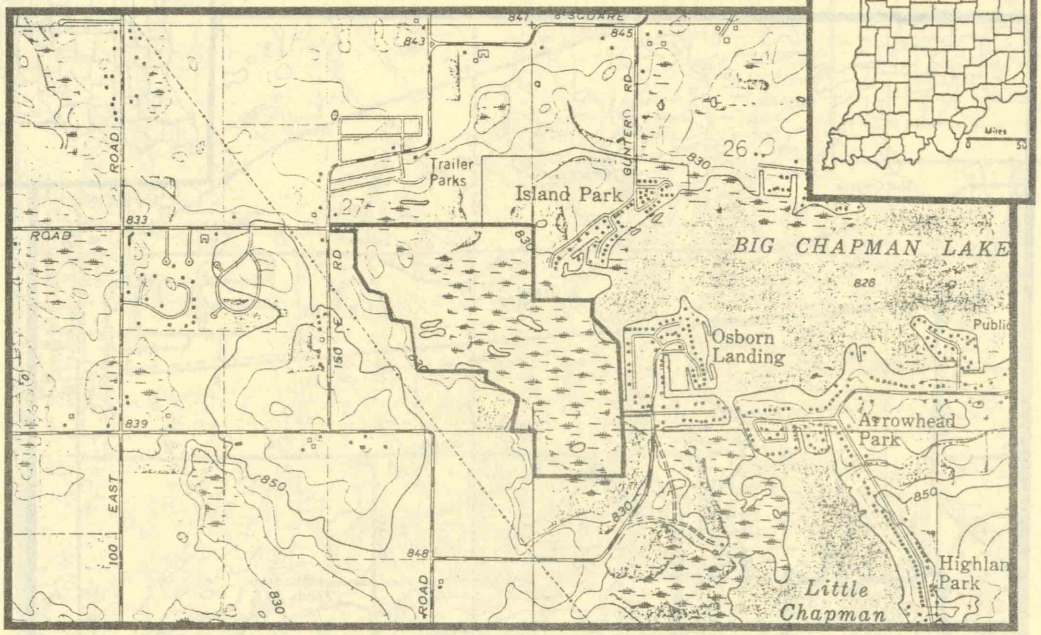
Description: The South Branch of Elkhart River and its floodplain form the north and west boundaries of the preserve. The combination of floodplain swamp forest, upland ridges, and old fields reverting to woody vegetation, provides a wide diversity of plant and animal communities.

The swamp forest is dominated by red maple, green ash, and red elm. The shrub layer is dominated by swamp rose, red osier dogwood, and poison ivy. Upland morainal ridges support second-growth stands dominated by hickories and oaks.

Further Information: Acres, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748, 219-637-6264 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Big Chapman Lake Nature Preserve

County: Kosciusko
Size: 147 acres
Map: Leesburg 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Nature Preserves - IDNR



Location and Access: From the intersection of U.S. 30 and S.R. 15, go south to the first left (east) onto 200 North Rd. Go approximately 2 1/4 miles until the road "T"s and turn left. Head north and take the first right. Go .7 mile and the preserve will be on the left. There is no parking lot or trails and access is difficult.

Description: Big Chapman Lake Nature Preserve is a large wetland with a variety of habitats. The cattail-bulrush community is a very attractive feeding and nesting area for several species of water birds including bitterns, rails and herons. The marl-beach prairie that borders the marsh is the most interesting wetland community type found here. It includes characteristic species such as blazing star and big bluestem.

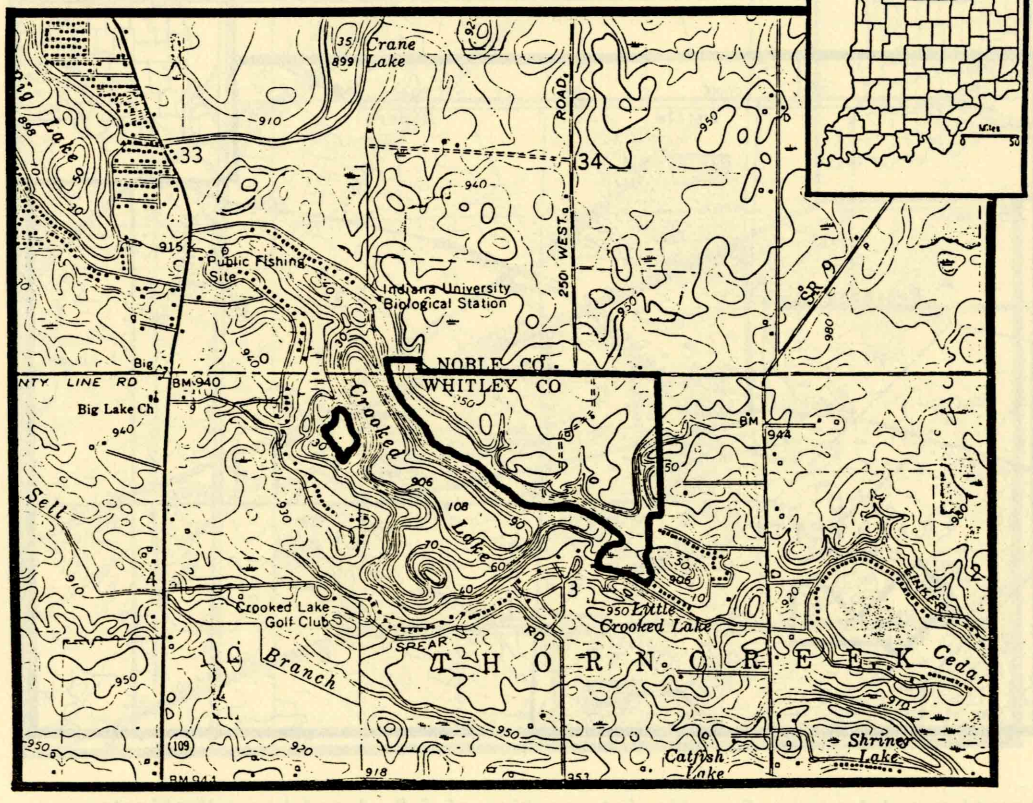
Rare and unusual species which may be found here include the flat -leaved bladderwort, the bog twayblade orchid, and the few-flowered spike rush.

Further Information: Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Crooked Lake Nature Preserve

County: Whitley, Noble
Size: 100 acres

Map: Merriam 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Nature Preserves-IDNR
Acres, Inc.



Location and Access: From the intersection of State Road 9 and U.S. 30, go north on S.R. 9 approximately 7 miles to the Noble-Whitley County line. Go one-half mile west on the county line road to a marked parking lot on the south side of the road. There are two trail loops through the preserve.

Description: This preserve contains over one-half mile of undeveloped shoreline on one of Indiana's cleanest and deepest lakes. Forested slopes are dominated by beech and sugar maple associated with green ash, shagbark hickory, red oak, sassafras, and white oak. The understory consists of sugar maple, ironwood, green ash, beech, and flowering dogwood. There are wetland habitats including marshes and calcareous seeps along the shore, and an island in the lake itself. Included in the preserve is one acre which serves as a memorial to former Governor of Indiana Ralph F. Gates. This tract is owned by ACRES, Inc.

Further Information: Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052 or Acres, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748, 219-637-6264.

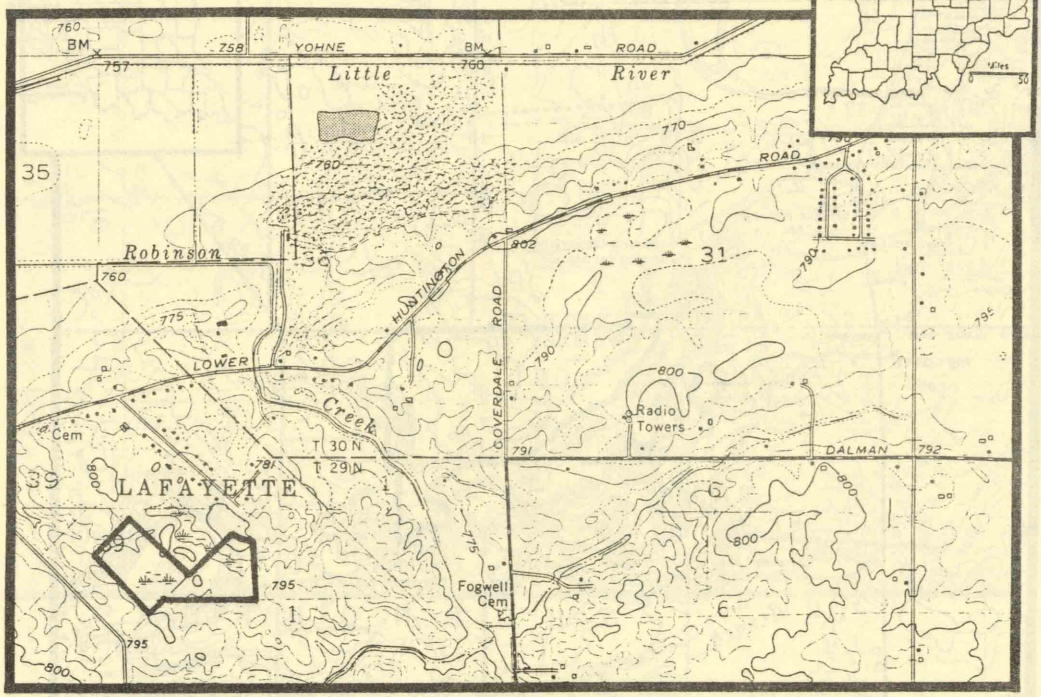
Fogwell Forest Nature Preserve

County: Allen

Size: 28 acres

Maps: Ossian and Ft. Wayne West 7.5' Quads

Ownership: Acres, Inc.



Location and Access: From the intersection of S.R. 1 and Lower Huntington Road on the south side of Ft. Wayne (the Waynedale area) go west on Lower Huntington Road to Whippoorwill Drive. Go left (southeast) on Whippoorwill and park at the end of the drive. Use stile to cross fence and follow the fenceline right (southwest) to the preserve.

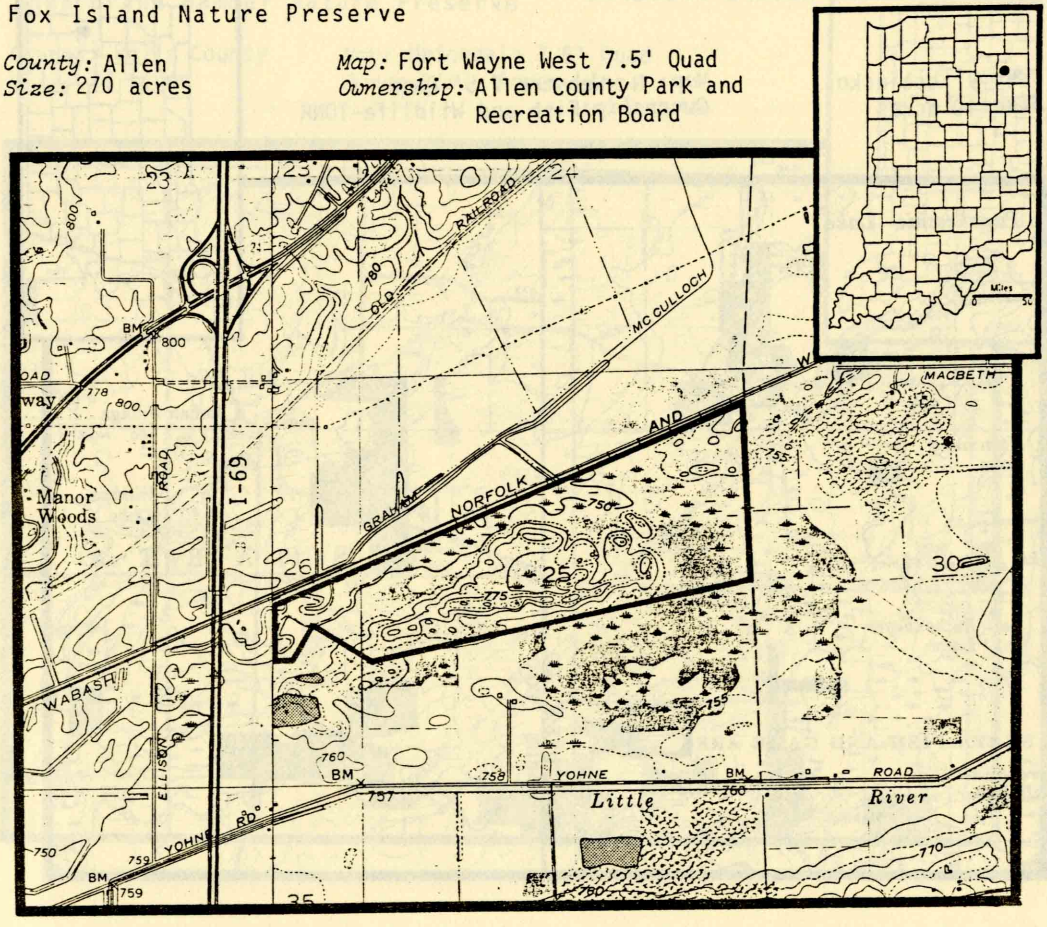
Description: This preserve contains an old second-growth forest growing on land with poorly drained depressions. Slight differences in elevation can produce large changes in forest composition. The drier sites are dominated by sugar maple, beech, white oak, and red oak with a variety of other species represented. Wet areas contain bur oak, red maple, swamp white oak, green ash, and buttonbush. The understory contains dogwood, spicebush, pawpaw, and maple-leaved viburnum. Trilliums, Dutchman's breeches, trout lily, bloodroot, and violets are common on the forest floor in Spring.

Further Information: Acres, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748, 219-637-6264 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Fox Island Nature Preserve

County: Allen
Size: 270 acres

Map: Fort Wayne West 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Allen County Park and Recreation Board



Location and Access: From U.S. 24, just west of the I-69 interchange, go south on Ellison Road. Follow Ellison as it curves east into Yohne Road. Follow Yohne east to the marked entrance. There are a number of nature trails through the preserve.

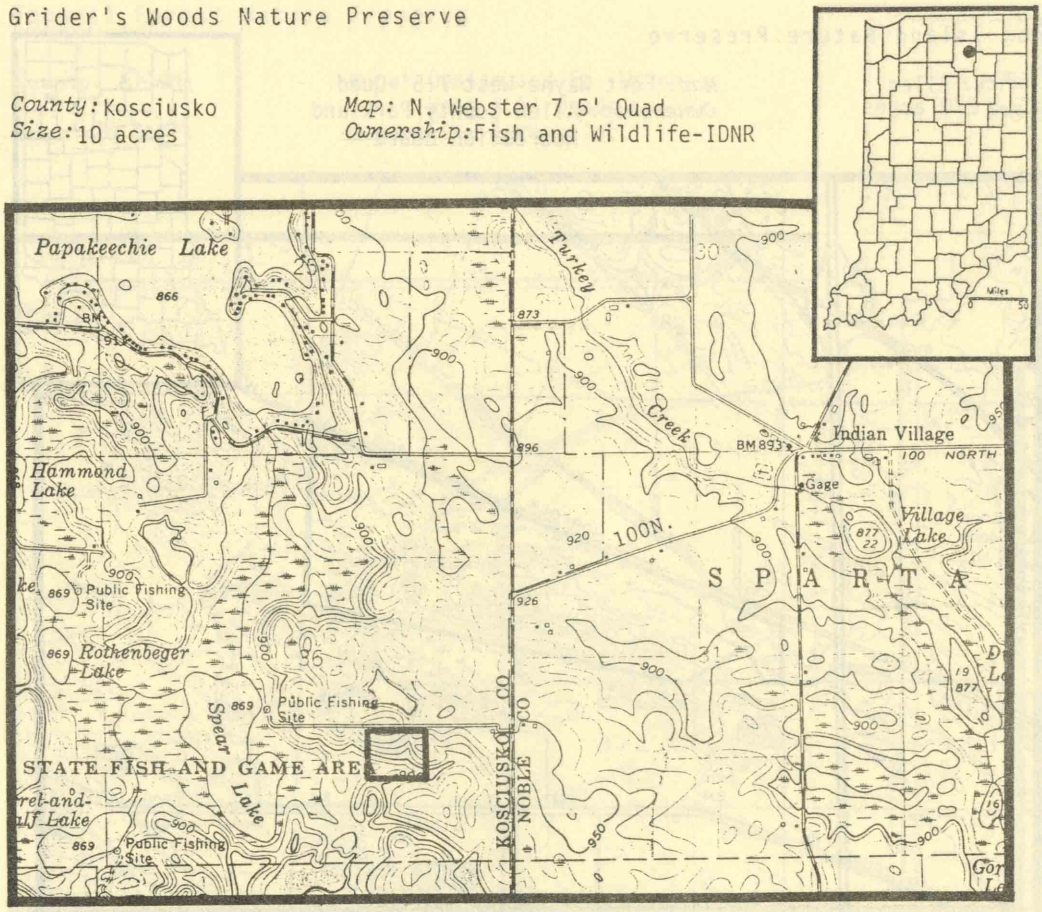
Description: Marshes and swamps border a dune developed after the recession of the Wisconsin glacier. Diverse land and water forms have created a wide variety of plant communities, which in turn support a large variety of animals. Black oak predominates on higher, drier dunes. White oak, black walnut, and wild black cherry increase on moist slopes, and are replaced by willows, cottonwood, and sycamore on low mucky soils. Wetlands in the northwestern part of the preserve have open water surrounded by emergent vegetation. Old fields in various stages of succession are also present. Over 190 species of birds have been found on the preserve.

Further Information: Naturalist, Fox Island County Park, 7324 Yohne Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46809, 219-747-7846 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Grider's Woods Nature Preserve

County: Kosciusko
Size: 10 acres

Map: N. Webster 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Fish and Wildlife-IDNR



Location and Access: From the town of Indian Village on State Route 5 in Noble County, take County Road 100N. southwest to a T intersection. Turn south and proceed about 0.3 miles to the first road west. Follow this road to a marked parking area. A self-guiding nature trail traverses the area.

Description: Jethro Grider formerly owned this small woodlot. It was also once part of the Flatbelly Indian Reservation.

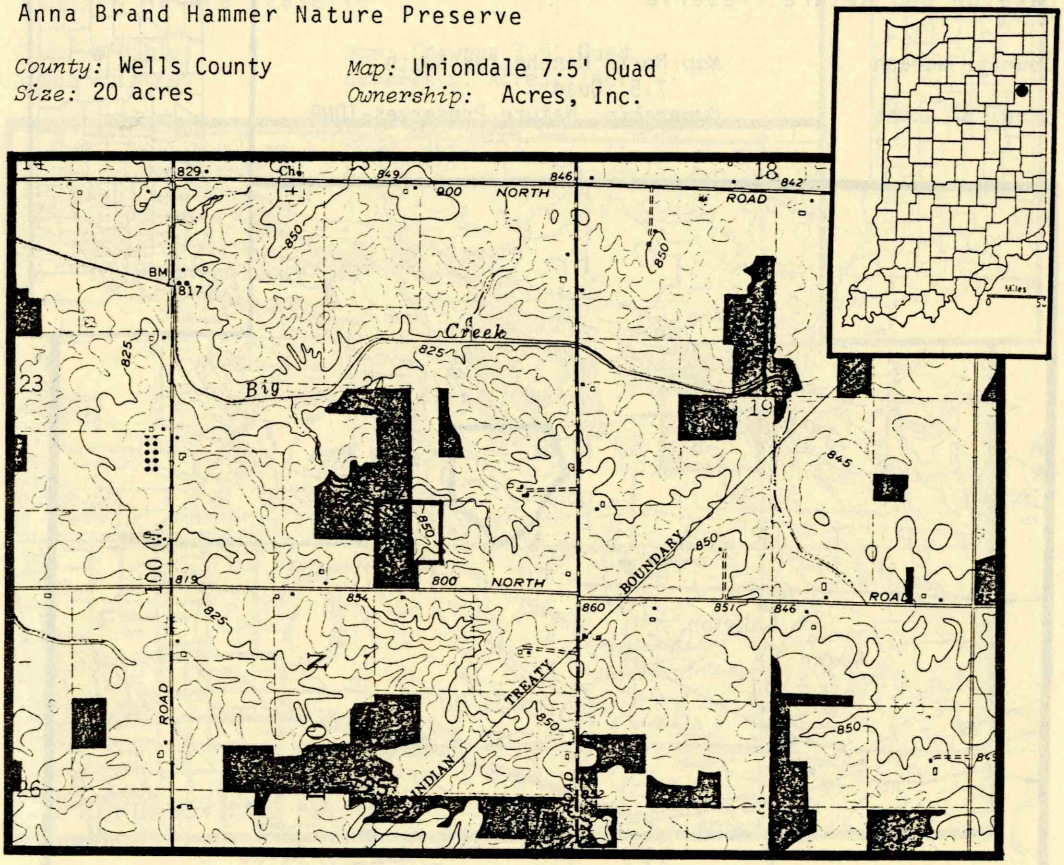
This is an old second-growth oak-hickory forest, with interspersed sugar maple, black walnut, white ash, and tulip. Several trees exceed 30 inches in diameter including: white ash, black oak, chinquapin oak, and red oak. The shrub layer includes woodbine, smooth black haw, mapleleaf viburnum, green brier, pawpaw, hazelnut, grape, gooseberry, and raspberry.

In spring the ground is carpeted with wildflowers including: spring beauty, bloodroot, anemones, May-apple, and beds of large-flower trillium. Later species are true and false Solomon's seal, sweet cicely, bedstraws, nettle, and appendaged waterleaf.

Further Information: Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Area, RR 2 Box 522, Syracuse, IN 46567, 219-834-4461 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Anna Brand Hammer Nature Preserve

County: Wells County
Size: 20 acres
Map: Uniondale 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Acres, Inc.



Location and Access: From Uniondale on U.S. 224 go north on County Road 100W. for two miles, then east for 0.5 miles on 800N. There is a parking area on the east side of the woods. There are no marked trails.

Description: The preserve includes 14 acres of mesic upland forest. There is a particularly high incidence of hickory in this area. Other common trees include sugar maple, beech, black cherry, red oak, and ironwood. There are lesser amounts of white oak, black walnut, and sycamore. Wild flowers carpet the forest floor in spring. The common spring wildflowers include spring beauty, purple cress, cut-leaved toothwort, bloodroot, trout-lily, Dutchman's breeches, trilliums, and violets. An intermittent stream wanders through the woods. Buttercups bloom along the stream's path. The remainder of the preserve is former farmland. Young trees have been planted to hasten the return to forest.

Further Information: Acres, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown IN 46748, 219-637-6264 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

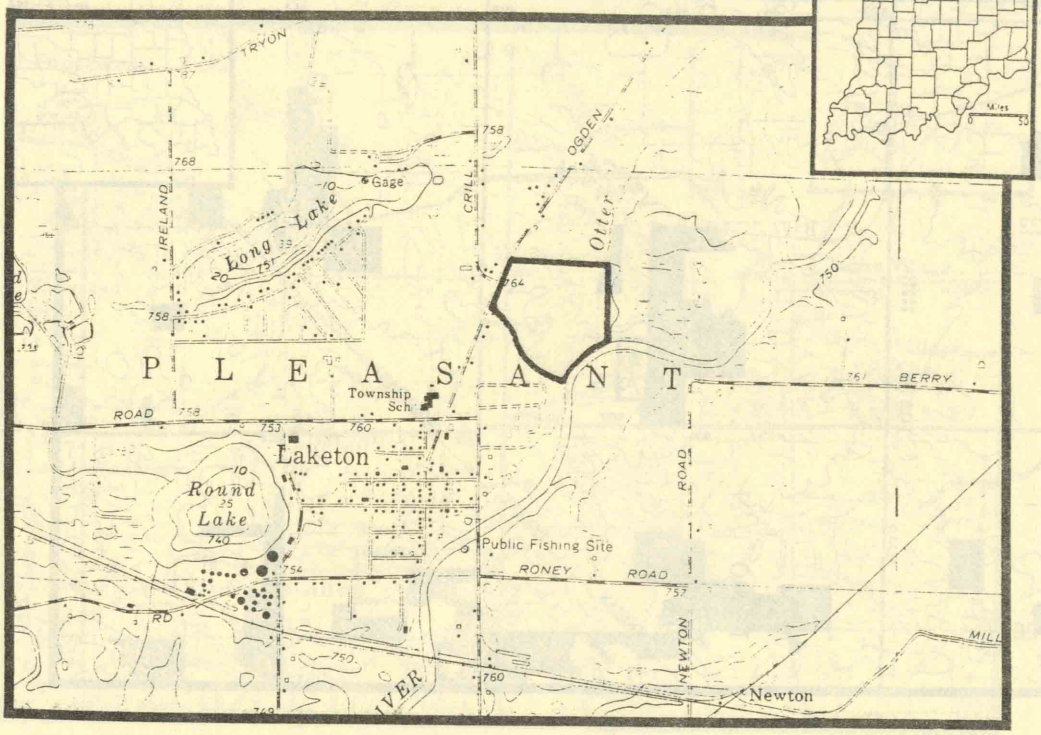
Laketon Bog Nature Preserve

County: Wabash

Size: 32 acres

Map: North Manchester South 7.5' Quad

Ownership: Nature Preserves-IDNR



Location and Access: From the intersection of S.R. 13 and S.R. 114, just west of North Manchester, drive west on 114. Turn south at the sign pointing to Laketon (Ogden Road). Continue south to the intersection of Ogden and Crill Road (200 W.). There is a short boardwalk and an observation tower. Access is by permission only pending further development.

Description: Laketon Bog contains the southernmost stand of tamarack in Indiana. Situated between a bluff and the Eel River, this peat-filled depression is kept wet by seepage coming from the base of the bluff. The tamaracks are relics which became established during cooler weather at the end of the last glacial period. As the bog fills in with dead vegetation conditions are becoming less favorable for tamaracks, and they are slowly dying out.

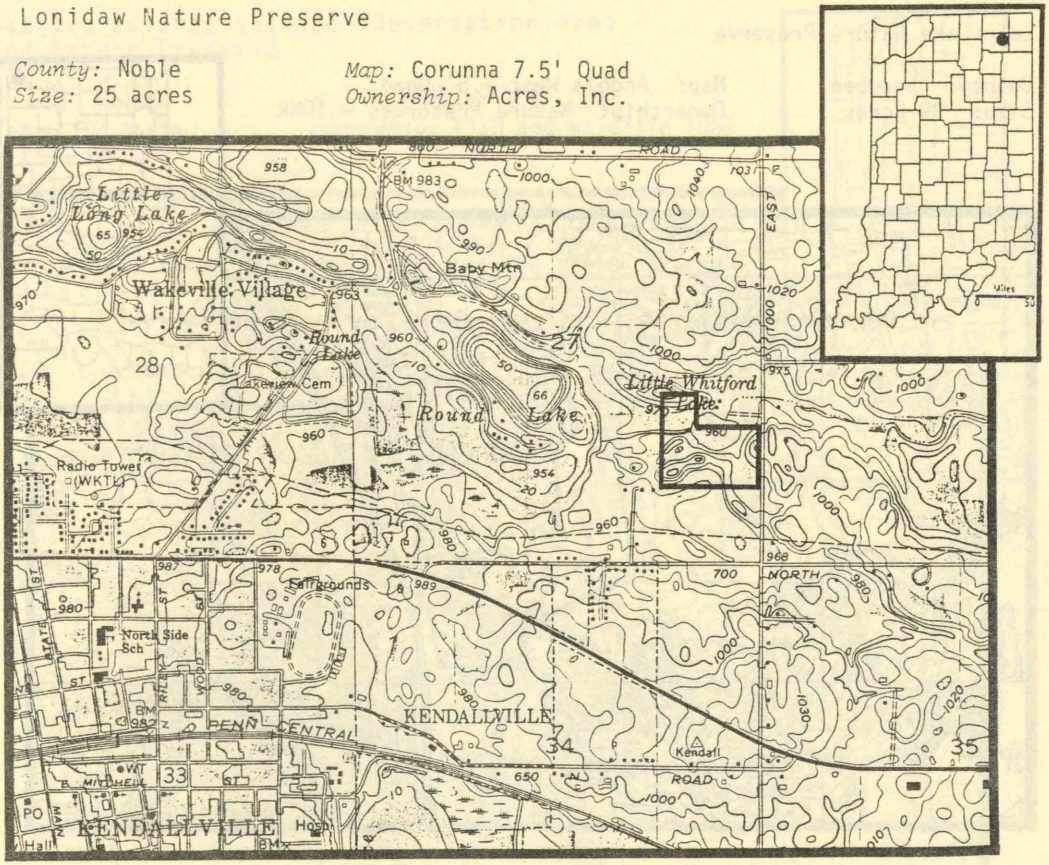
In addition to tree swamp (where the tamaracks are found), shrub swamp, marsh, and floodplain forest communities are also present. Common shrubs of the preserve include several species of willow, red osier dogwood, ninebark, shrubby cinquefoil, and dwarf birch. Skunk cabbage and marsh marigold are abundant spring wildflowers.

Further Information: Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Lonidaw Nature Preserve

County: Noble
Size: 25 acres

Map: Corunna 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Acres, Inc.



Location and Access: From the north side of Kendallville go east on U.S. 6. Just after the fairgrounds U.S. 6 turns southeast. Make a left turn off of U.S. 6 and continue due east on County Road 700 N. After 0.8 miles turn north on 1000 E. and go 0.3 miles to the preserve. Park at the gate. There is only room for one vehicle. Trails wind through both upland and lowland areas.

Description: The terrain of Lonidaw was shaped by glaciers. The preserve includes three-fourths of the shoreline of a 5 acre kettle hole lake (Little Whitford Lake). An esker runs east-west through the south part of the property.

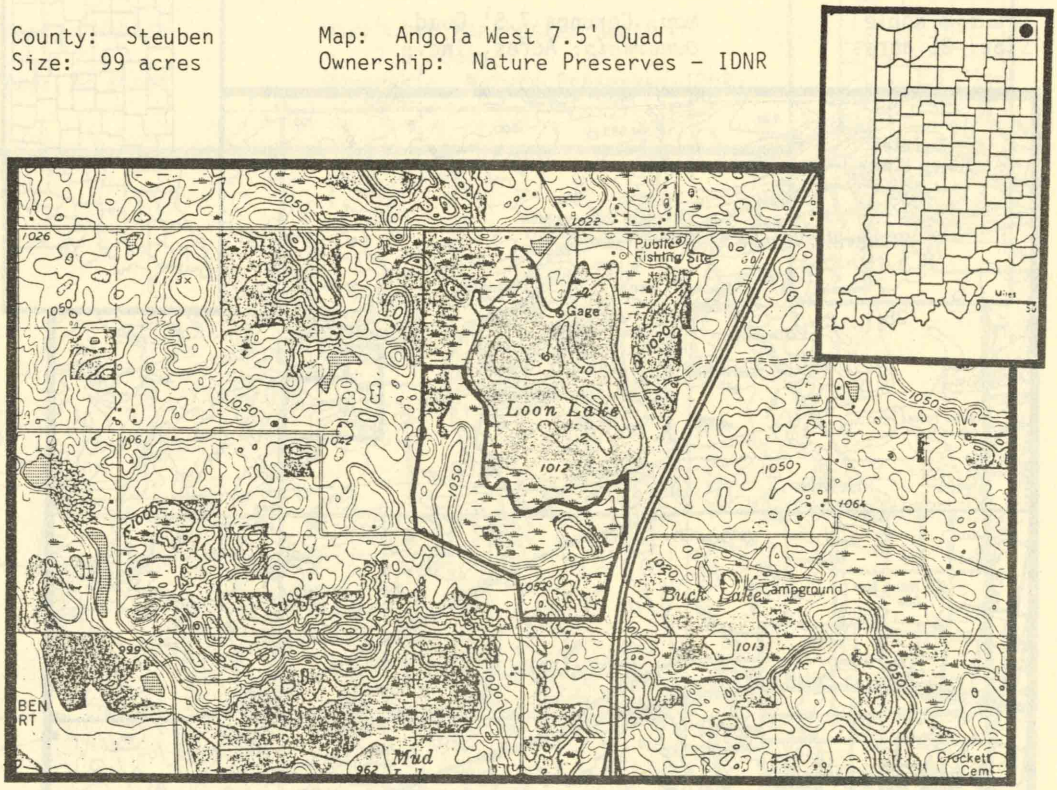
Mucky ground near the lake is dominated by spicebush, dogwoods, willows, and swamp rose. Skunk cabbage and marsh marigold are common in this area. Low ground near the lake is covered by mature woods dominated by sugar maple, hackberry, red elm and walnut. Spicebush is common in the understory. The lower slopes are particularly rich in spring wildflowers. Upland areas are covered by mature to old growth sugar maple - beech woods. Prickly ash is a common understory species of the uplands.

Further Information: Acres, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748, 219-637-6264 or Division of Nature Preserves,605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Loon Lake Nature Preserve

County: Steuben
Size: 99 acres

Map: Angola West 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Nature Preserves - IDNR



Location and Access: From the intersection of I-69 and U.S. 20, go west 1/8 mile. Turn north at the T-road and go 3/4 mile to where road turns left. Park in front of the cable on the right. There are no trails or boardwalks here and access to wetland areas near the lake is very difficult.

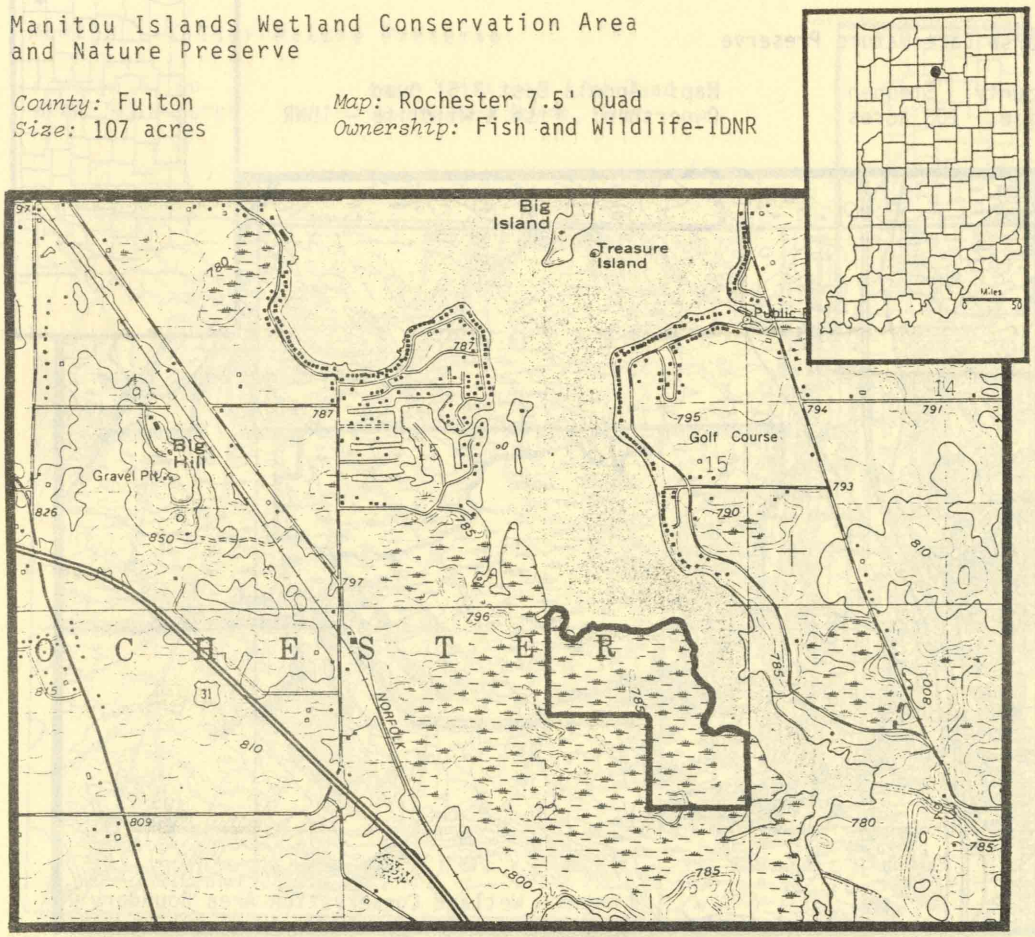
Description: Loon Lake is most important for its number of different wetland communities which are home to over a dozen rare, threatened, or endangered plant species.

Among these are the purple bladderwort, which grows in the shallow open water of Loon Lake, the Robbin's spike rush and cuckoo flower which can be found in the sedge meadow area of the preserve, and the pitcher plant, cotton grass, and tamarack trees which can be found in the bog. There is also an area of marl prairie that is considered very good quality.

Further Information: Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Manitou Islands Wetland Conservation Area
and Nature Preserve

County: Fulton
Size: 107 acres
Map: Rochester 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Fish and Wildlife-IDNR



Location and Access: This preserve is on the south end of Lake Manitou, which is just east of Rochester. Access is by boat only. Boats may be launched at the public fishing site on the east side of the lake. Visitors should use caution as hunting is allowed on this area during season.

Description: Several wetland communities are found within the preserve. Many acres of high quality marshland are covered with cattails, lily pads, bulrushes, reed grass and other grasses, sedges, and aquatic flowers. Here and there forested islands jut up out of the marshland. Some of these are forested with oaks and hickories, and others are covered with tamarack trees.

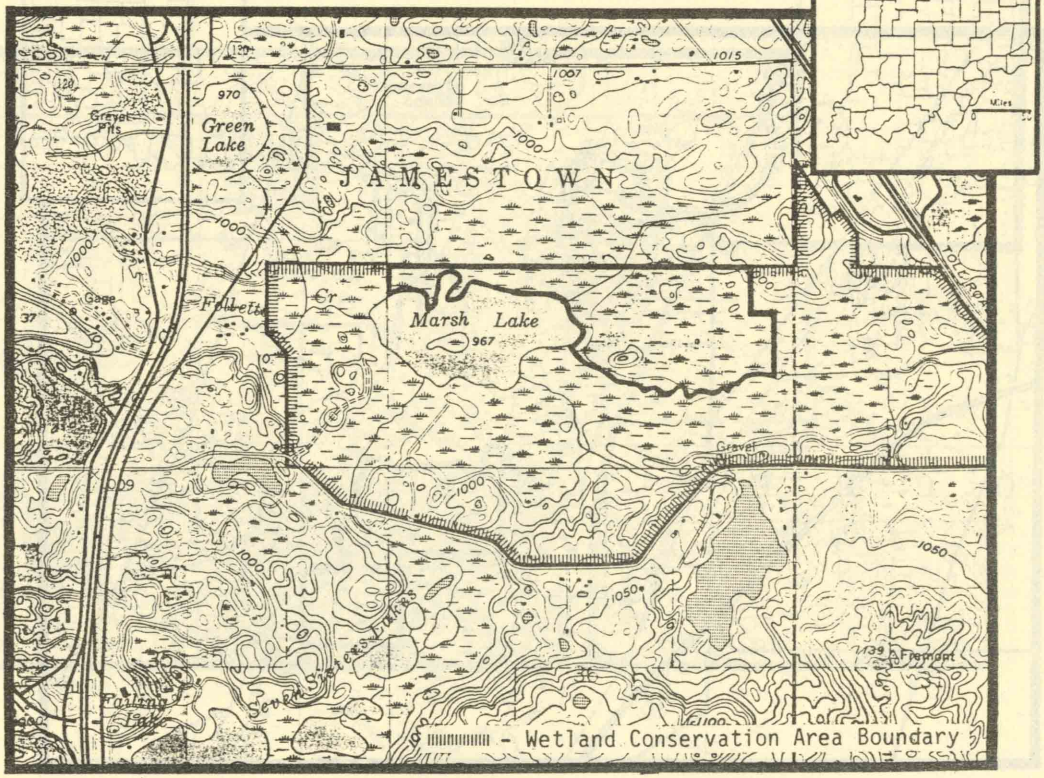
Wildlife abounds on the preserve. Marshland birds such as marsh wrens, rails, ducks, herons, red-winged blackbirds, and swamp sparrows are found throughout. Migration time brings even more waterfowl into the area. Muskrats, mink, deer, raccoon, skunks, and opossum are among the many animals that may be seen.

Further Information: Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052 or Division of Fish and Wildlife, 607 State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Marsh Lake Nature Preserve

County: Steuben
Size: 103 acres

Map: Angola East 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Fish & Wildlife - IDNR



Location and Access: Exit I-69 at the Pokagon exit. Proceed north on the road that parallels the east side of I-69 to Feather Valley Road and turn right. For boat access, go east about 3/4 mile to the entrance to the Marsh Lake public access site. For foot access, there is a parking lot on County Road 100 East near the northeast corner of the preserve. There are no trails in this preserve and hunting is allowed in season.

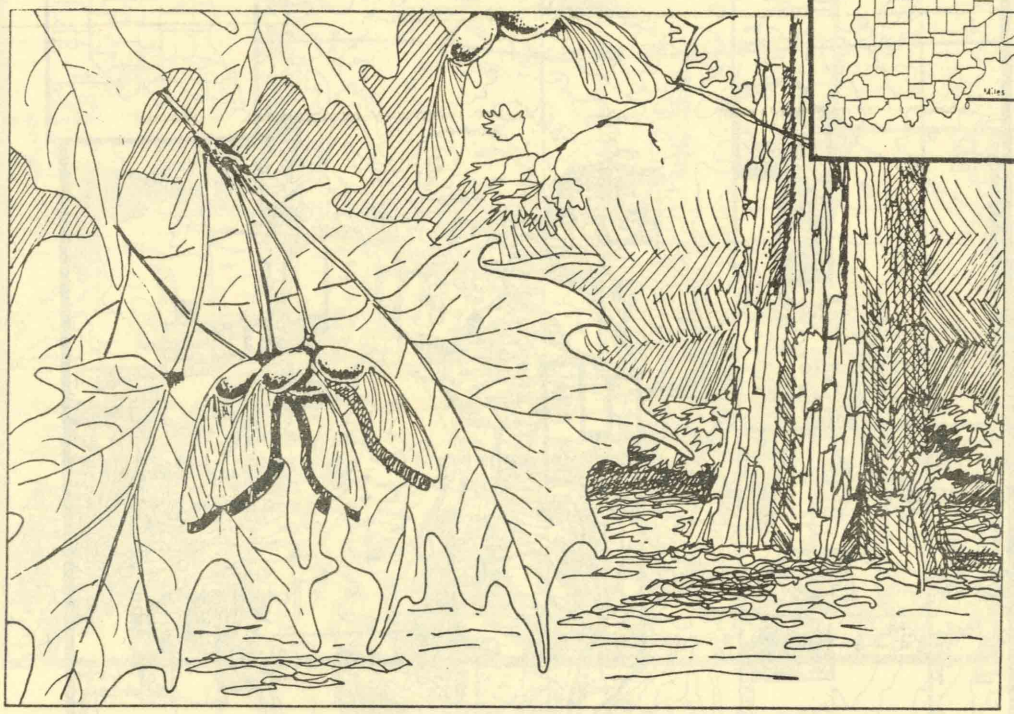
Description: This nature preserve contains a wide variety of wetland habitats including cattail marsh, sedge marsh, calcareous fen, shrub swamp, and forested swamp. The forested swamp is particularly interesting since it contains an extensive boreal relict stand of tamarack and yellow birch trees. Associated with the tamaracks and yellow birches are a number of other boreal species including dwarf birch, Canada may flower, and starflower. Common species here include skunk cabbage, marsh marigold, red maple and red-ozier dogwood.

Further Information: Division of Fish and Wildlife, 607 State Office Building, Indianapolis, 317-232-4091, or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

McNabb - Walter Nature Preserve

County: Allen
Size: 41.4 acres

Map: Saint Joe 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Acres, Inc.



Location and Access: The preserve is open by permission only.

Description: The majority of this preserve is covered by mesic upland forest. The old growth portion contains large old sugar maples and tulip trees. Other trees of the upland woods include wild black cherry and beech. The spring wildflower display is rich in both variety and quantity. In some parts of the preserve Dutchman's breeches form a continuous groundcover. Several species of trilliums also form extensive beds. Other spring wildflowers include bloodroot, spring beauty, and yellow trout-lilly.

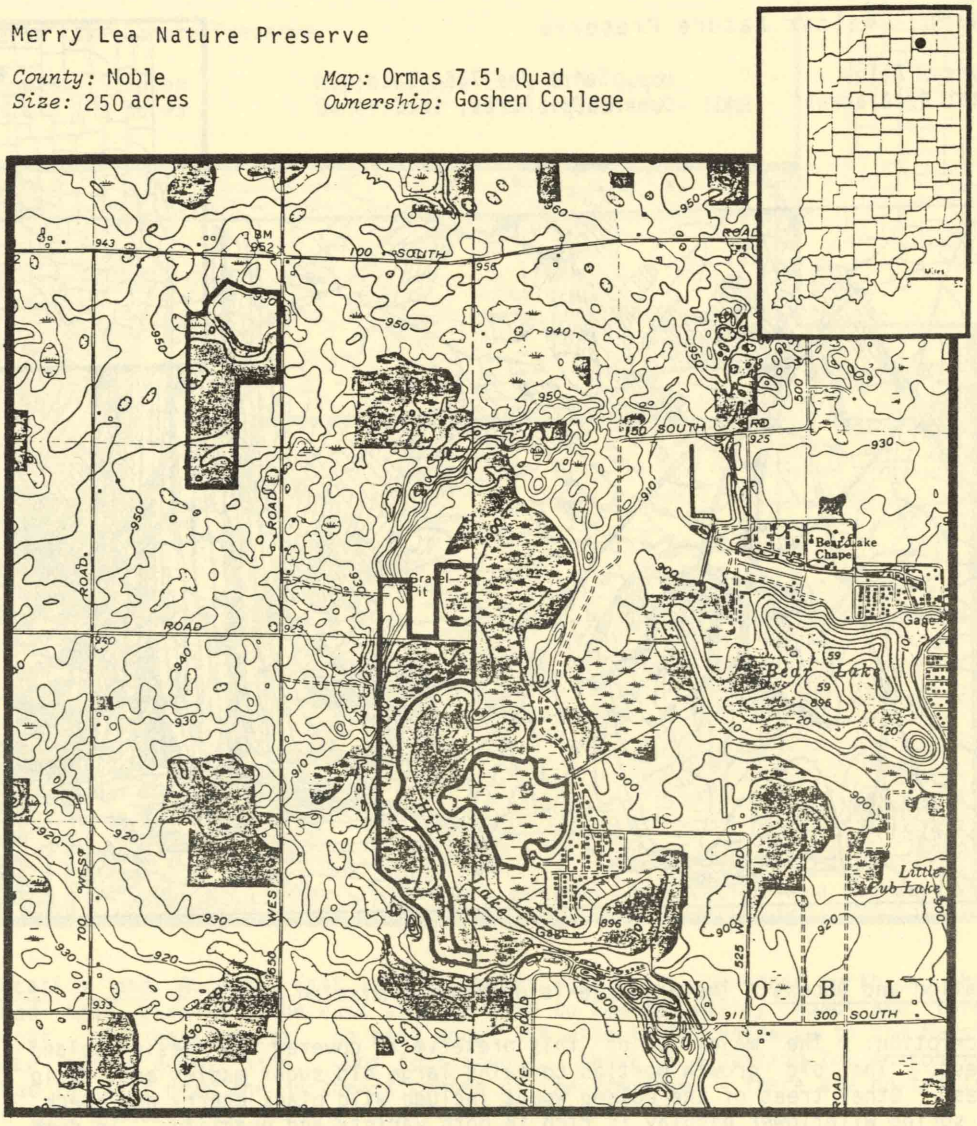
A stream flows through the preserve and there is a small floodplain along the stream edge. Here you can find floodplain species such as sycamore which are generally not present in the upland.

Further Information: Acres, Inc., 1802 Chapman Rd., Huntertown IN 46748, 219-637-6264 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Merry Lea Nature Preserve

County: Noble
Size: 250 acres

Map: Ormas 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Goshen College



Location and Access: Drive south from the village of Wolflake on State Route 109 for approximately two miles. Then head west on County Road 350 S. for one mile and go north on County Road 500 W. for one-half mile to the entrance. Park at the nature center. This preserve is part of the large Merry Lea Environmental Center. Contact Merry Lea before visiting the preserve.

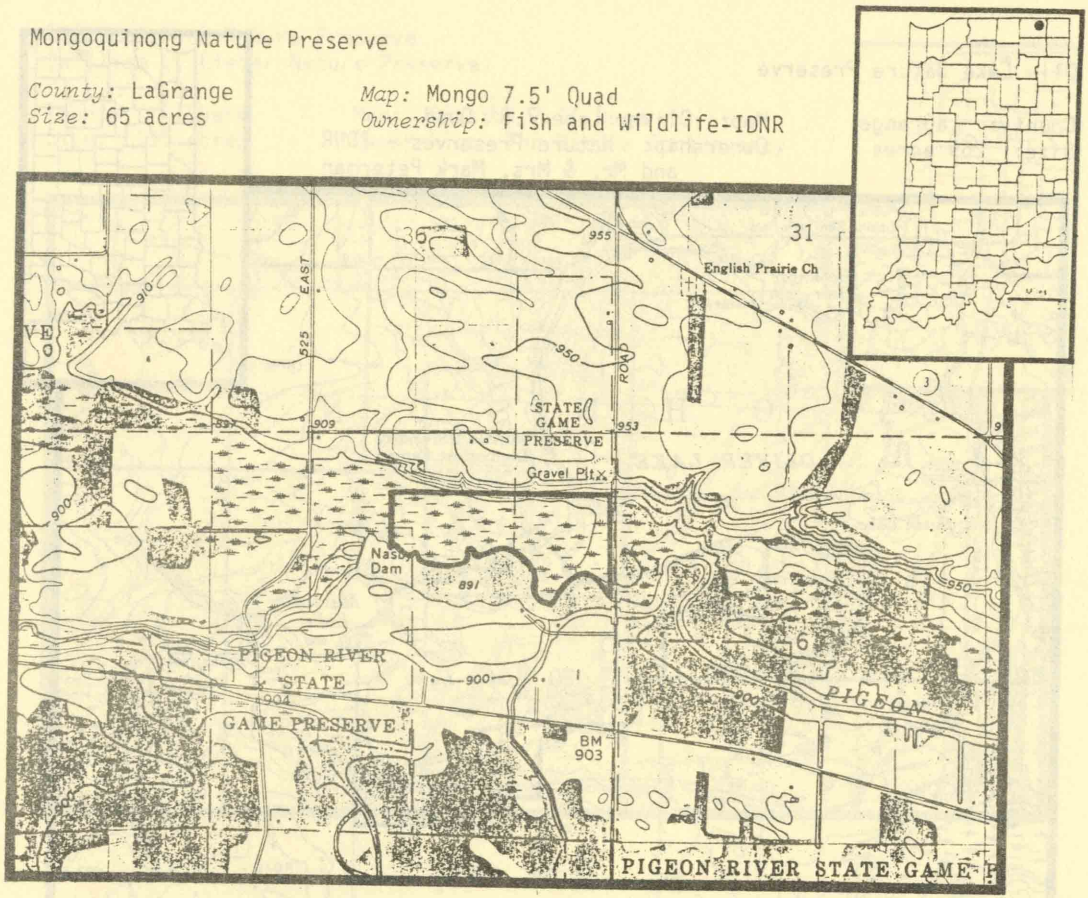
Description: Cattail marsh, red maple swamp forest, shrub swamp, upland oak-hickory forest, interesting glacial features, and much of the shoreline of High Lake are included in the preserve.

Further Information: Merry Lea, Goshen College, Goshen IN 46526, 219-533-3161 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Mongoquinong Nature Preserve

County: LaGrange
Size: 65 acres

Map: Mongo 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Fish and Wildlife-IDNR



Location and Access: From the main intersection in Mongo go west approximately 1.5 miles to County Road 600 East and turn north. Park in the first parking lot on your left after you cross the Pigeon River. The fen lies west of the road and north from the river to the steep bluff. There are no trails. Visitors should use caution as hunting is allowed in season.

Description: A fen differs from other wetland communities in that it is kept wet by flowing alkaline groundwater. In this fen, water percolates down through calcium-rich gravel and seeps out of the bluff. It flows through the peaty soil and into the Pigeon River.

Most fen plants are herbaceous rather than woody. The dominant plant in this fen is the sedge Carex stricta which grows in clumps or tussocks. Many wildflowers add color to the fen including marsh marigolds in spring, blazing stars in late summer, and gentians in fall.

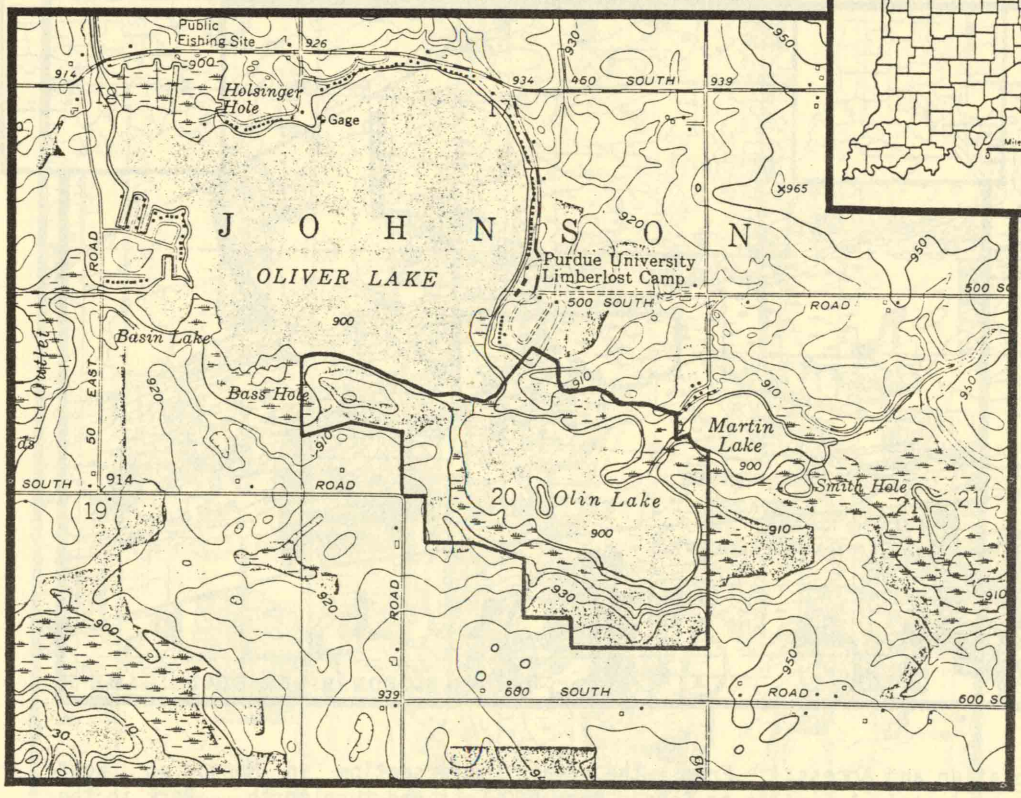
A few woody plants such as the shrubby cinquefoil are normal parts of a fen community. Others, such as dogwoods, quickly reproduce to form dense clumps which shade out the normal fen plants. Fire plays an important part in keeping fens from becoming too shrubby.

Further Information: Pigeon River State Fish and Wildlife Area, Mongo IN 46746, 219-367-2164 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Olin Lake Nature Preserve

County: LaGrange
Size: 269 acres

Map: Oliver Lake 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Nature Preserves - IDNR and Mr. & Mrs. Mark Peterman



Location and Access: From Wolcottville go north two miles on State Route 9. Turn west on County Road 600 S. Proceed two miles, turn right on County Road 125 E and go north one-half mile to a marked parking lot. A hiking trail leads to the lakeshore.

Description: At just over 100 acres, Olin Lake is the largest lake in Indiana with an undeveloped shoreline. The entire shoreline is protected by this preserve.

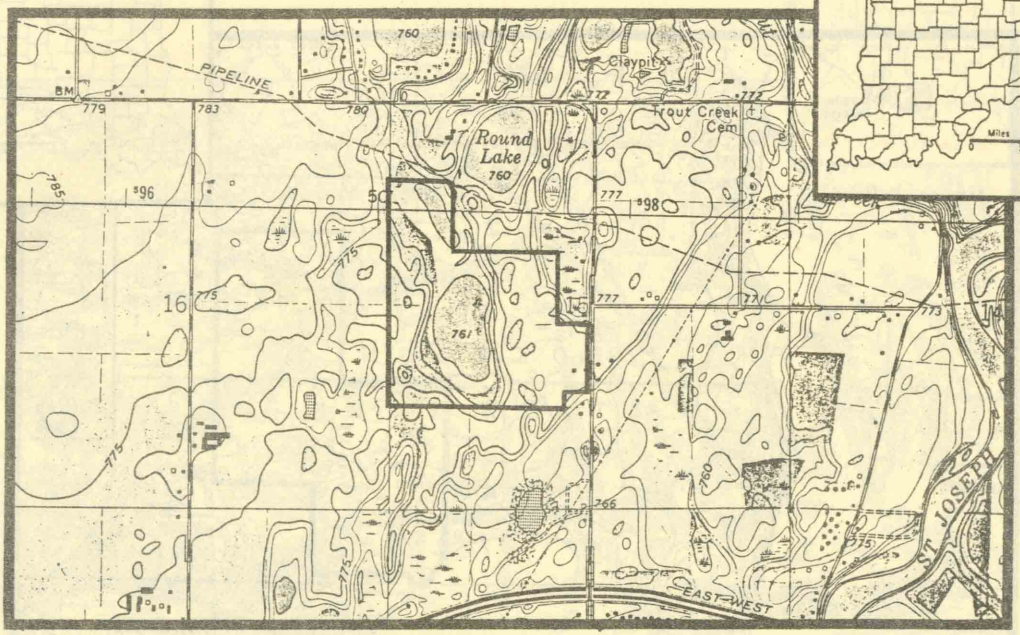
Most of the shoreline is low and marshy, which undoubtedly contributed to the lack of development. Swamp forest along the shoreline includes tamarack, silver maple, red maple, and green ash. Skunk cabbage abounds in low mucky spots. Aquatic vegetation is sparse because the lake bottom is covered with marl, a white calcareous substance precipitated from the water.

On the upland portion of the southeast shore is the remnant of a once large woods. Many large tulip, oak and walnut trees were removed in the late 1960s. But, there are still large specimens of sugar maple, beech, hackberry, and red oak surrounding the stumps of once larger residents.

Further Information: Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Pipewort Pond Nature Preserve
(William L. Lieber Nature Preserve)

County: Elkhart
Size: 135 acres
Map: Bristol 7.5' Quad
Ownership: The Nature Conservancy



Location and Access: In Bristol, at the intersection of U.S. 120 and S.R. 15 where the latter turns south, proceed northward across the St. Joseph River bridge. Shortly after crossing the bridge turn onto the road veering off to the left. Follow this road until you are 1/2 mile past the toll road overpass. Park next to the old farm buildings on the west side. The preserve is west behind the buildings.

Description: Pipewort Pond has a very shallow basin which creates wide seasonal fluctuations in the water level. The resulting effect is that of extensive peaty muckflats and sandflats late in the summer with the same areas completely under water in the spring and early summer. Because of these wetland characteristics, Pipewort Pond is a very attractive site for herons, ducks, and shorebirds.

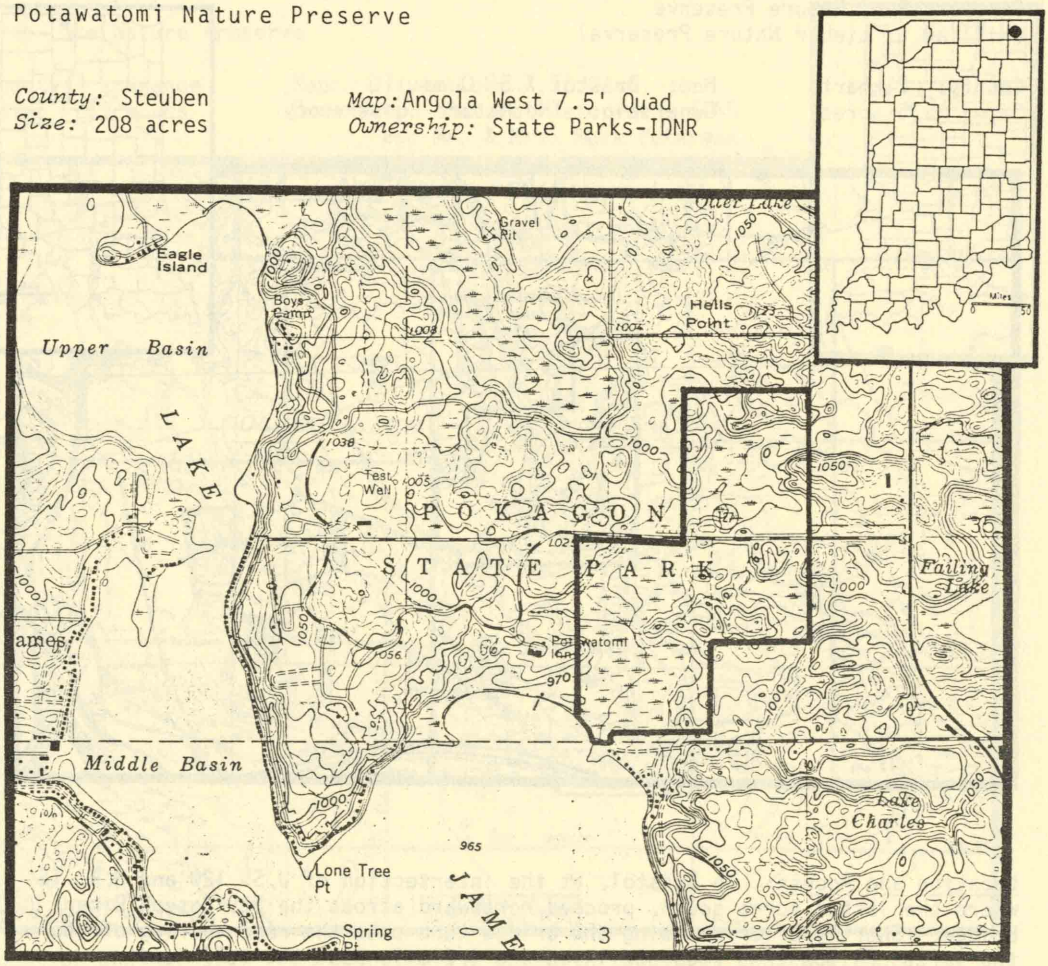
Some unusual plant species which can be found here include umbrella sedge, Robbin's spike rush, green-keeled cotton grass and the pipewort. Many of the rare species found here are disjunct from the Atlantic Coastal Plain.

Further Information: The Nature Conservancy, 4200 Michigan Road, Indianapolis, IN 46208, 317-923-7547 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Potawatomi Nature Preserve

County: Steuben
Size: 208 acres

Map: Angola West 7.5' Quad
Ownership: State Parks-IDNR



Location and Access: Potawatomi occupies most of the southeastern and eastern portion of Pokagon State Park. Park trails 3 and 6 pass through the preserve. These trails are marked on the map available at the entrance gate or park office; however, the preserve boundaries are not marked on the map.

Description: A natural lake, cattail marshes, sedge meadows, tamarack and yellow birch swamps, and adjoining uplands covered with hardwoods are features of this preserve. It is an outstanding example of the original landscape in the Northeastern Morainal Lake Region.

Lake Lonidaw is nestled in a depression bordered by marsh vegetation and an adjoining tamarack-black ash swamp. Other wet places support not only tamarack and black ash, but also yellow birch and red maple.

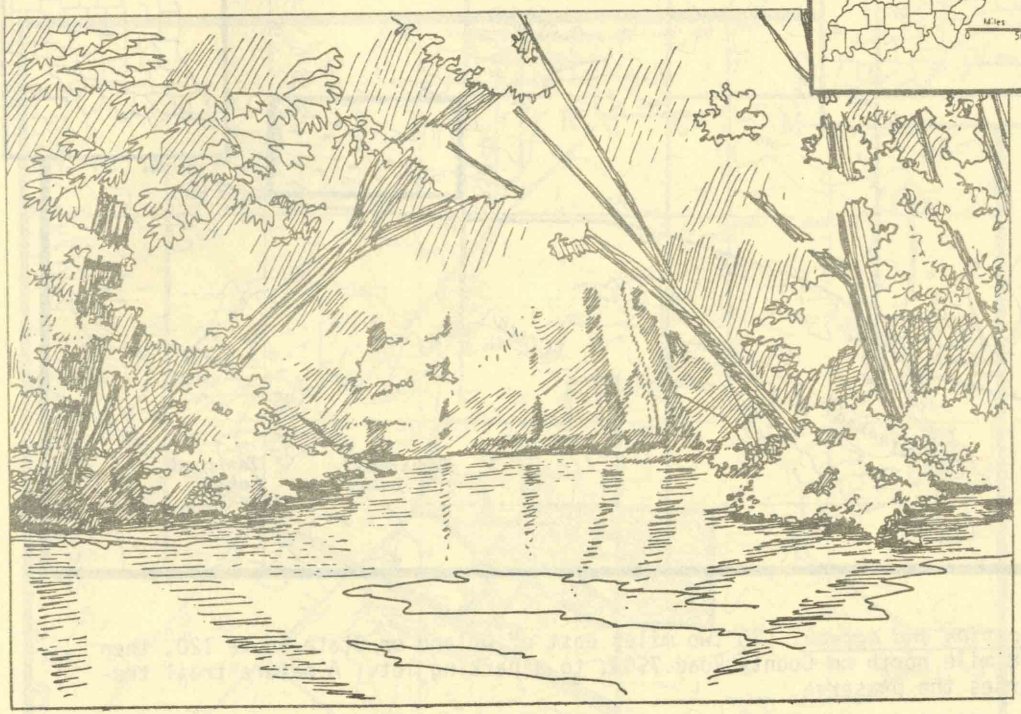
The higher morainal ridges support stands of red oak, white oak, wild black cherry, shagbark hickory, and sugar maple.

Further Information: Pokagon State Park, RR 2 Box 29C, Angola, IN 46703, 219-833-2012 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Albert D. Rodenbeck Nature Preserve

County: Allen
Size: 49 acres

Map: Cedarville 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Izaak Walton League



Location and Access: This preserve is presently undeveloped and access is by written permission only.

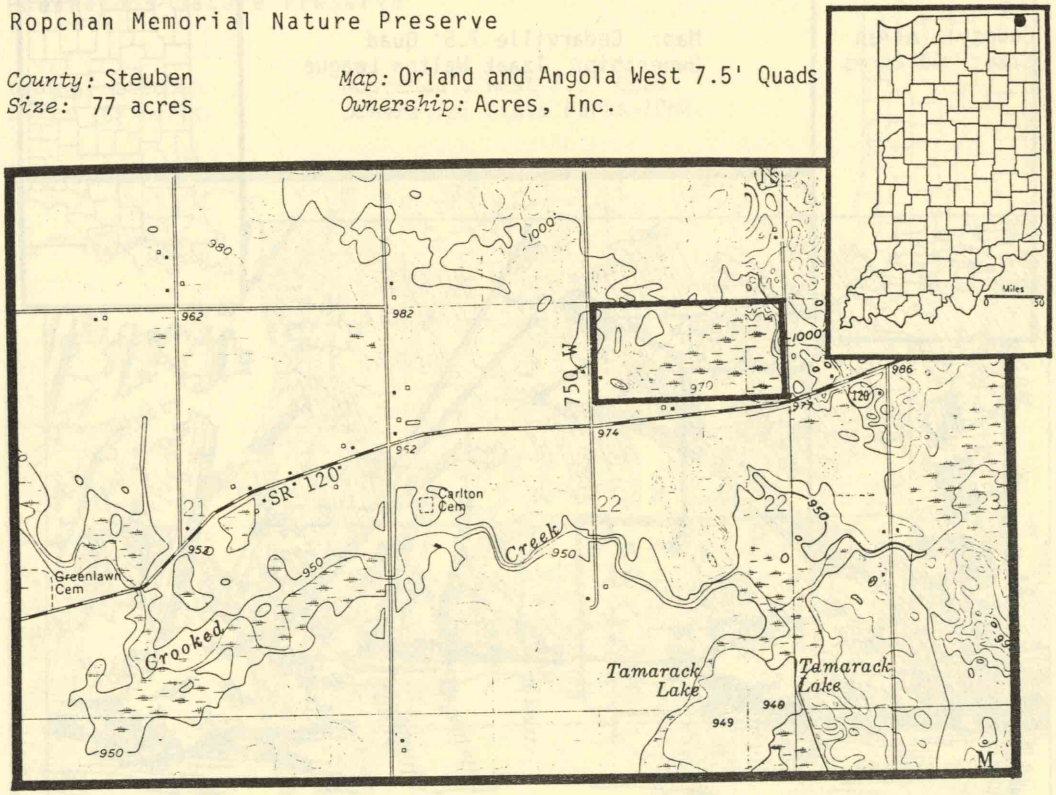
Description: This preserve protects land along both sides of Cedar Creek, which is a component of Indiana's Natural River System. Most of the preserve consists of floodplain bottomland forest dominated by cottonwood, sycamore, and willow. Other portions contain upland and ravine forest dominated by oaks and hickories.

Further Information: Fort Wayne Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, 17100 Griffin Road, Huntertown IN 46748, caretaker's phone number: 219-637-6735 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Ropchan Memorial Nature Preserve

County: Steuben
Size: 77 acres

Map: Orland and Angola West 7.5' Quads
Ownership: Acres, Inc.



Location and Access: Go two miles east of Orland on State Route 120, then 1/8 mile north on County Road 750W. to a parking lot. A nature trail traverses the preserve.

Description: The diversity of geological features, with morainal ridges, kettle holes, swamps, and bogs, contributes to a good floral distribution. Sandy loam ridges surround pockets of muck and peat. These higher and drier portions support associations of shagbark hickory, white oak, red oak, black oak, wild black cherry, and sassafras, interspersed with occasional clumps of largetooth aspen.

Red maple becomes common as soil moisture increases on lower slopes and dominates where water remains on the surface. Tamarack and yellow birch replace red maple in the deeper peat pockets and swamps. A lone native white pine stands in a very deep sphagnum moss deposit.

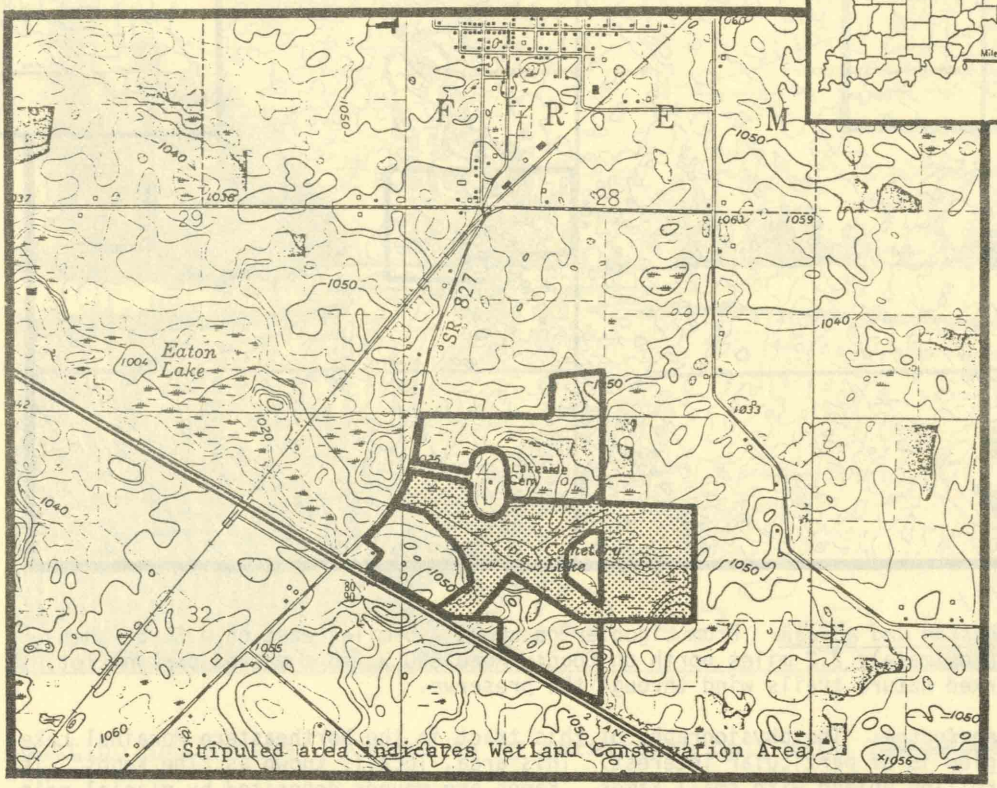
Soil moisture also influences the understory. Look for hazelnut, dogwood, and poison ivy among brambles of blackberry and raspberry on dry sites. Prickly ash and highbush blueberry become more frequent on lower ground bordering red maple swamps. Winterberry and mountain holly are found around the swamp edges. In places, shallow-rooted red maples have fallen, creating hummocks covered with the large spreading fronds of cinnamon fern.

Further Information: Acres, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748, 219-637-6264 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Ropchan Wildlife Refuge Nature Preserve

County: Steuben
Size: 157 acres
(Nature Preserve)
90 acres
(Wetlands Conservation Area)

Map: Angola East 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Acres, Inc. and
Fish and Wildlife-IDNR



Location and Access: Go one mile south of Fremont on State Route 827. Use the parking area on the east side of the road. Trails are being developed.

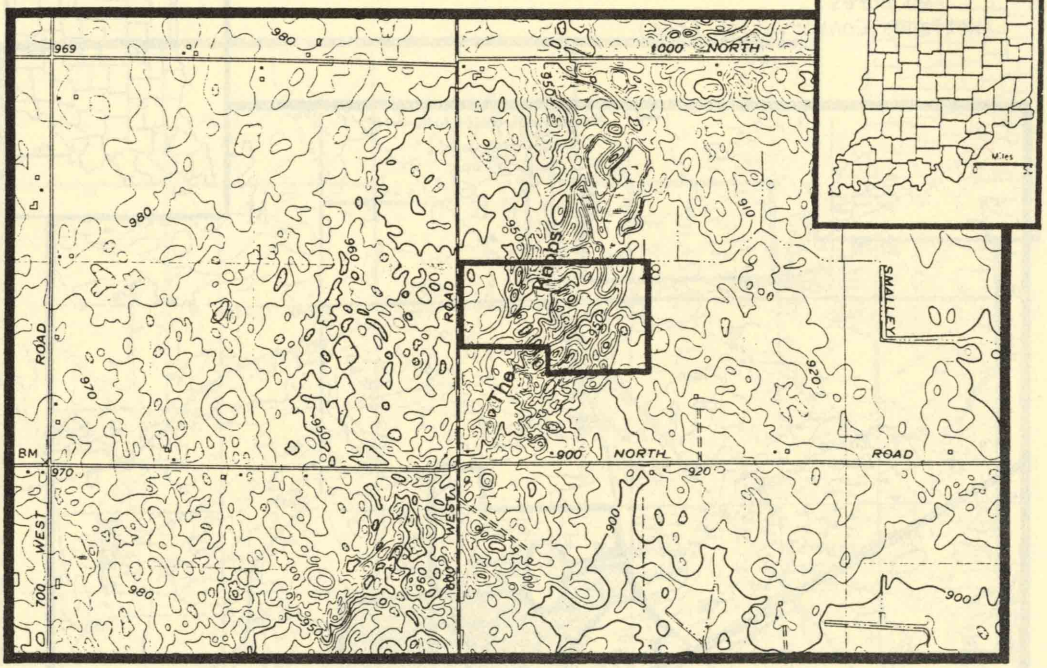
Description: This area contains a number of plant communities including: upland oak-hickory, mixed mesophytic, and lowland swamp forest; old fields in various successional stages; and pine plantations. Unusual plants include tamarack, yellow birch, and two species of shinleaf. Star-nosed moles, Blanding's turtles, and massasauga rattlesnakes are among the more unusual animals. The topography is the strongly rolling kettle and kame glacial topography that is so well developed in Steuben County.

Further Information: Acres, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748, 219-637-6264 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Edna W. Spurgeon Nature Preserve

County: Noble
Size: 65 acres

Map: Ligonier 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Acres, Inc.



Location and Access: From Ligonier go about 2.5 miles east on U.S. 6, then approximately 2.2 miles north on County Road 600 W. to a marked parking lot. Marked nature trails wind through the preserve.

Description: The physiography of this tract in the Northeastern Morainal Lake Region is of particular interest. This area, locally known as "The Knobs", is a rolling upland with small kames. Kames are mounds deposited by glacial meltwater.

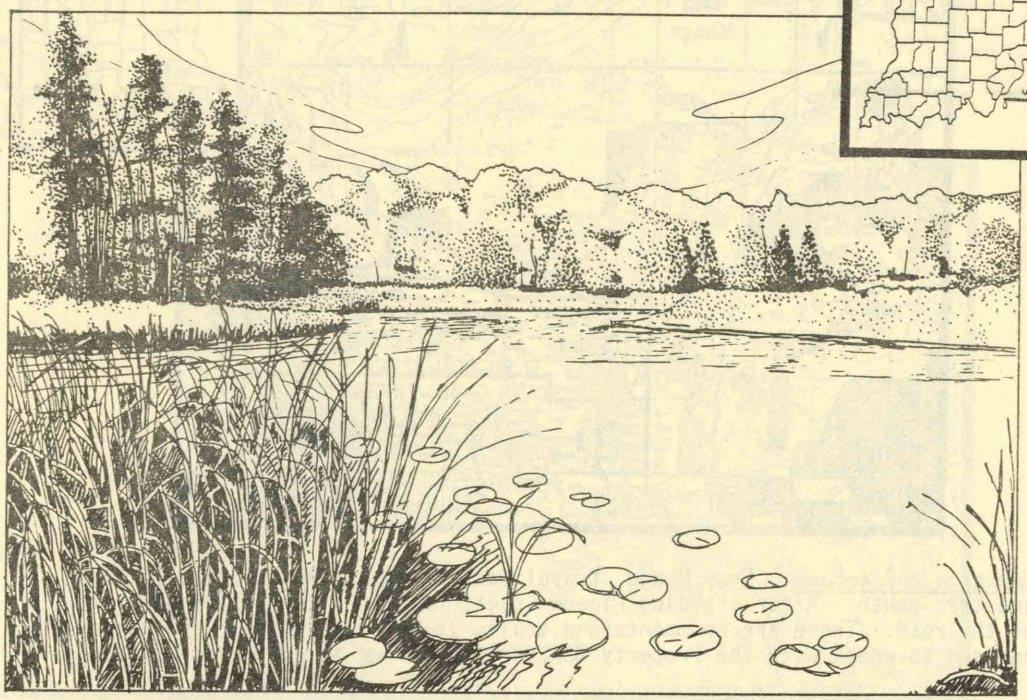
A diversity of past land use practices has created a site varying from old field to sizable forest stands. The entrance trail leads through a bluegrass field which has been invaded by hawthorns, sumacs, blackberries, elms and wild black cherry.

The adjoining beech-maple woods may be divided into two units. The west side, which was grazed some years ago, contains some older beeches, but lacks a dense understory. The eastern portion, with low ridges and moist troughs, supports a fully-stocked second-growth stand of beech and maple, with the usual associates of green ash, tulip, red oak, basswood, hackberry, and wild black cherry. Many American elms were killed by disease, but red elm is still present. Shade-tolerant sugar maple dominates the understory.

Furthern Information: Acres, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748, 219-637-6264 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Swamp Angel Nature Preserve

County: Noble
Size: 83 acres
Map: Wolcottville and Kendallville 7.5' Quad
Ownership: The Nature Conservancy



Location and Access: Access is by permission only from The Nature Conservancy.

Description: The preserve protects the entire shoreline and associated wetlands of Needham Lake and a portion of Grannis Lake. These lakes are highly calcareous and the vegetation in and around them includes many calciphilic and habitat restricted species, including insectivorous species such as pitcher plants, sundews and bladderworts. Several unusual species of animals make their homes here, as well.

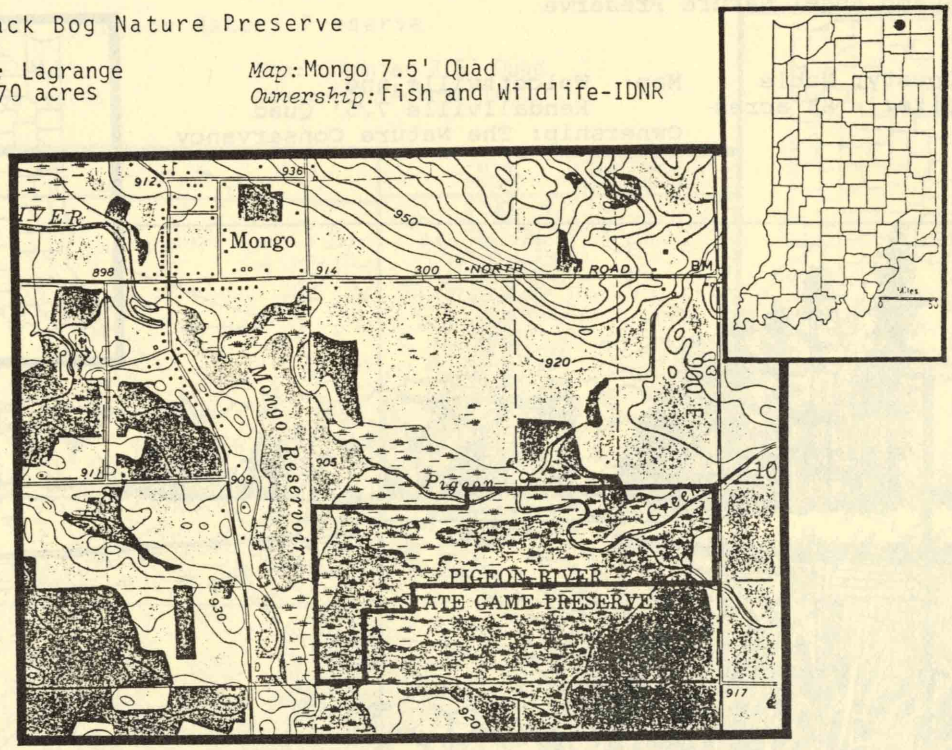
The habitats present include various types of sedge marsh, calcareous fen, stands of tamarack trees and small upland areas with oak trees.

Further Information: The Nature Conservancy, 4200 Michigan Road, Indianapolis, IN 46208, (317) 923-7547, or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4052.

Tamarack Bog Nature Preserve

County: Lagrange
Size: 170 acres

Map: Mongo 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Fish and Wildlife-IDNR



Location and Access: From Mongo, travel east on County Road 300 N. to 900 E. and turn south. After crossing Pigeon Creek, park in a lot on the west side of the road. There are no maintained trails in this preserve. Visitors are advised to check with the Property Manager as hunting is allowed in season.

Description: This preserve contains a fine boreal relict swamp forest dominated by tamarack trees. Typically a tree of the upper lake states and Canada, tamaracks are unusual in Indiana. This Registered Natural Landmark is the largest remaining tamarack swamp in the state. The various communities of the preserve contain numerous plants and animals that are rare, threatened, and endangered in Indiana.

A boreal relict community persists here because of a cool micro-climate created in the swamp by ground water flowing to the river just below the surface. Occasionally the water surfaces as seepage and small springs. Besides tamaracks, common northern species include speckled alder, dwarf birch, high bush blueberry, Canada Mayflower, and starflower. More typical of this latitude are red maple, black ash, spicebush, dogwoods, willows, skunk cabbage, and marsh marigold.

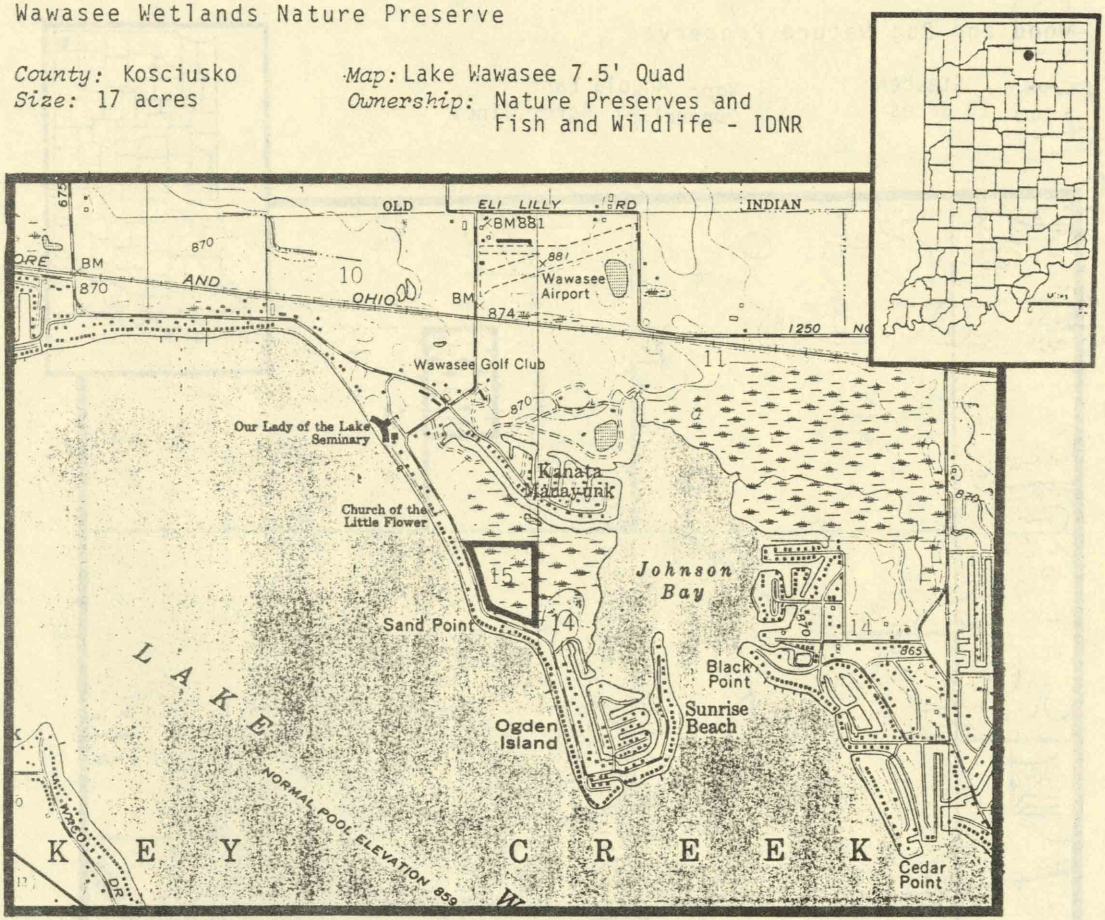
Another community in the preserve is sandy upland oak woods with a low shrub understory of huckleberry, lowbush blueberry, and wintergreen. Bordering part of Pigeon River on the west end of the preserve is a marsh with emergent and floating aquatic vegetation.

Further Information: Pigeon River State Fish and Wildlife Area, Mongo, IN 46746, 219-367-2164 or Division of Nature Preserves,605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Wawasee Wetlands Nature Preserve

County: Kosciusko
Size: 17 acres

Map: Lake Wawasee 7.5' Quad
Ownership: Nature Preserves and Fish and Wildlife - IDNR



Location and Access: Access is only by water from Johnson Bay of Lake Wawasee. There are private marinas on Lake Wawasee, but the nearest public access site is about 4.5 miles distant on connecting Syracuse Lake.

Description: Open water, cattail marsh, sedge meadow, and a small island are contained within the preserve. Cattail, spatterdock, arrowhead, and sedges are the common aquatic plants. On drier ground near the island leatherleaf, buttonbush, and wild gooseberry form a shrub layer. The dominant trees are red maple, and scattered black willow.

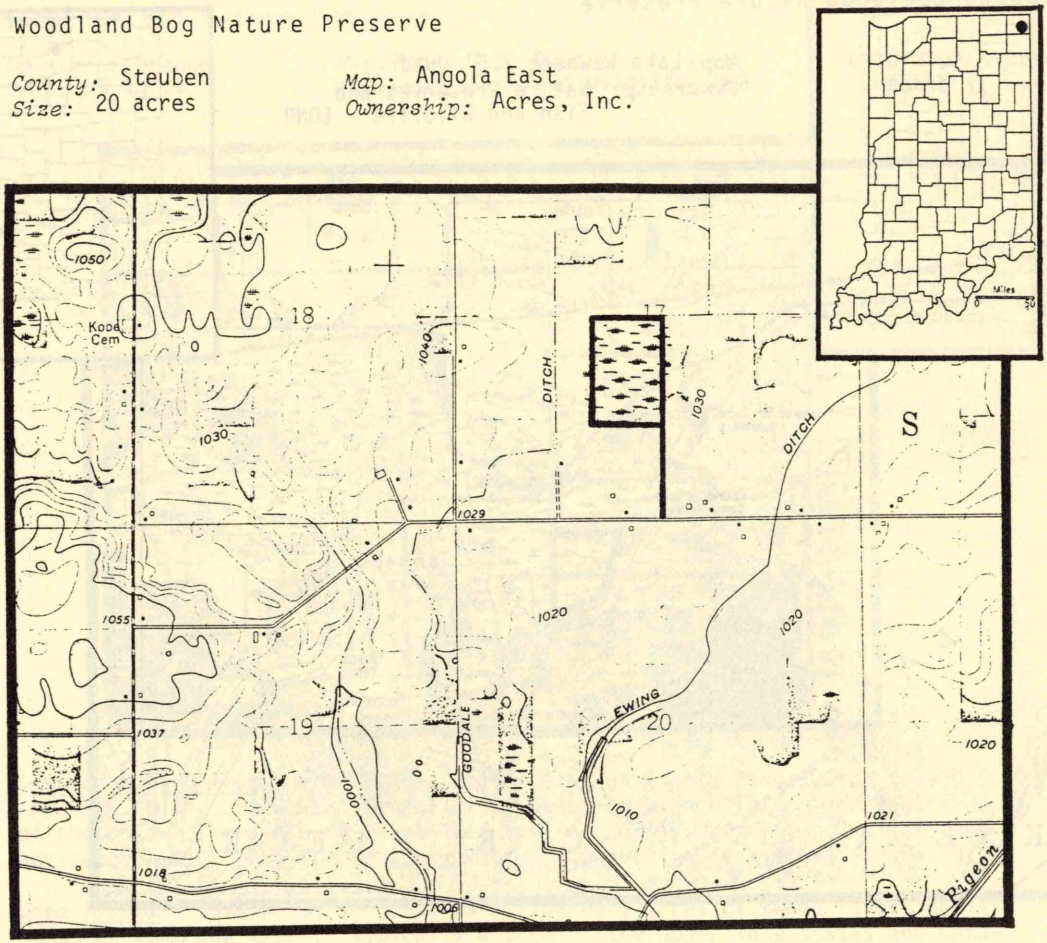
The area is important for fish, wildlife, and waterfowl. Muskrats live there, fish spawn in the shallow water, and waterfowl rest and feed. Although the area is protected from hunting and fishing, the high productivity and refuge qualities of the preserve will insure that animals can replenish their numbers and afford hunting and fishing opportunities elsewhere.

Further Information: Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Woodland Bog Nature Preserve

County: Steuben
Size: 20 acres

Map: Angola East
Ownership: Acres, Inc.



Location and Access: From the circle in Angola, go east 1.5 miles on U.S. 20. Then turn north, drive 1.3 miles and turn right. Follow that road for 1.4 miles and park along the roadside. Use the stile on the north side of the road to cross a fence to the preserve access trail.

Description: Woodland Bog is an example of a swamp forest community developing on the peaty soil of an old bog. The area is now covered with red maple, wild black cherry, red elm, pin oak, swamp white oak, and largetooth aspen. A few tamaracks still survive as evidence of an earlier time when they dominated the bog. Tamarack declined as the bog filled in with dead plant material.

Dense beds of cinnamon and royal ferns with fronds up to six feet long grow on tussocks formed by the roots of fallen trees. In other areas prickly ash, wild grape, Virginia creeper, and highbush blueberry grow in profusion above mats of swamp dewberry.

Further Information: Acres, Inc., 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748, 219-637-6264 or Division of Nature Preserves, 605B State Office Building, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-4052.

Division of Nature Preserves
Department of Natural Resources